

Hafa Adai!

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Senate also backs CW extension

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Senate on Friday concurred with the House of Representatives to support a bill in the U.S. Congress to extend the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program for an additional 10 years.

Both legislative chambers have unanimously approved Rep. Angel Demapan's (R-Saipan) House Joint Resolu-

tion 20-08, with the Senate passing it last Friday.

The resolution shows the CNMI Legislature's support

for U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) S. 2325, which extends the transitional period for the CW program and some

of its provisions.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has

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500 Sails to launch a 4th canoe

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The 500 Sails organization will launch the newest addition to its canoe family during the Lunar New Year celebration.

500 Sails acquired the *Roberta L* vessel around October 2017 and has since been refurbishing it. The organization is almost completely done and plans to officially sail the vessel during the Lunar New Year Festival on Feb. 16 and give the vessel

its Chamorro name.

According to 500 Sails board president Pete Perez, the canoe will be given the name *Ladahao* during the festival and will be taking passengers all throughout the night, free of charge.

The name *Ladahao* was suggested to Perez by Indigenous Affairs Office resident executive Crispin Ogo to commemorate a prominent ancient Chamorro chief.

"In historic record, he is a prominent Saipan chief..."

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CNMI-Guam free trade eyed

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Free trade between the CNMI and Guam was one of many subjects legislators and policy-makers of both territories talked about at the inaugural meeting of the Marianas Working Group at the Saipan World Resort last Friday.

Guam Sen. Wil Castro said in an interview last Friday that his group, the Health and Food Security Group, discussed set-

ting up a possible free trade negotiation between the CNMI and Guam.

Recognizing the possibility of an overlap between Rota's exclusive economic zone, or EEZ, and Guam's EEZ, Castro said it should be worth discussing free trade between the CNMI and Guam.

With the possible overlap in EEZ's, goods brought from the CNMI to Guam or vice-versa should be considered in-

See TRADE on Page 4



SAIPAN SUNSET

A tourist takes a picture of the sunset while walking along the Beach Road Pathway in Garapan. The Saipan sunset is one of the most photographed event on the island.

JON PEREZ

Ex-lawyer's petition to be reinstated found deficient

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has found Joseph A. Arriola's petition to be reinstated so he can again practice law in the CNMI deficient.

That resulted in oral arguments in Arriola's petition that were scheduled this Thursday to be taken off the court's calendar.

In an order last Thursday, the justices said that Arriola's petition to be reinstated as a

practicing lawyer in the Commonwealth does not conform with some requirements.

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos said that a petition for reinstatement must comply

with NMI Rules of Attorney Discipline and Procedure Rule 19(c) and include, among other requirements, a list of the names and address of people who received restitution; a statement that the petitioner

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INSIDE



NATION

An Amtrak train accident kills two crew members and hurt more than 100.

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WORLD

Over 100,000 in Greece rally to protest use of the name Macedonia.

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LIFE & STYLE

Here are 10 Super Bowl ads that are likely to be talked about.

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Local

8th Cycle Corrections Academy now in full swing

The 8th Cycle Corrections Academy is in full swing, with cadets beginning their training. “Last year in June, our 7th Cycle Academy underwent ethics and professional conduct training and we want to ensure that this cycle receives

this critical training when dealing with personnel and those serving time in our facility,” said Corrections Commissioner Vincent S. Attao. “It is important that we reinforce regular training and strengthen the quality of professional

conduct and protect the integrity of law enforcement and corrections.” Attao noted that the newly employed cadets have been introduced to paramilitary ranking and structure, as well as standards and depart-

mental procedures. “Cadets are taught discipline and are expected to perform under highly stressful situations while maintaining their bearing. With this, our cadets undergo substance dependency and anger manage-

ment on ways to prevent, control, or alleviate anger in this profession. I thank counselor Jennifer McQuay and officers of the Professional Standards Unit in strengthening enforcement and conduct,” he said. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

reiterated that enhancing ethics and professional conduct training to promote rehabilitation and reintegration is a key part to the overall success of the correctional facility. “I will continue to emphasize that for the long-term, focusing on rehabilitation and reintegration is one of the ways we can address the issues with individuals who are incarcerated, and concerns with recidivism. Training our cadets to encompass this mentality improves the system and strengthens their duties and responsibilities beyond keeping peace and order. These cadets are given authority, which is a high level of civil and ethical responsibility. There is and will continue to be a delicate balance in maintaining this responsibility, which is why these training academies for all law enforcement is critical. As we move toward enforcing policies, and improving our correctional facility, I commend our cadets for taking an interest in public service and doing their part in ensuring the wellbeing of the community,” Torres said. (PR)



EXPERIENTIAL JOURNEY

The CNMI State Teacher of the Year for 2017 Gerard Van Gils, second from right, shared his yearlong journey that impacted both his personal and professional life during last week’s Board of Education meeting, the policymaking body of the Public School System, among them his interactions with his counterparts from all of the 50 states and five territories, his meeting with President Donald Trump, and numerous events he participated in the past year. In this photo, Board of Education chair Maria Lourdes S. Ada, vice chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio, board members Florine M. Hofschneider, Herman T. Guerrero, and teacher representative Paul Miura, and Education Commissioner Glen Muña gather around Van Gils following the meeting on Capital Hill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Congratulations Zekang Ma (Curry) for passing the CPA Exam!

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From your BCM Family

Mesngon: No response from USCIS yet

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Rota senator who previously urged U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to approve all humanitarian parole requests of CW workers and their families said the agency has yet to get back on his request.

In a letter to Guam USCIS field office director Rebecca F. Maliuwelur dated Jan. 23, 2018, Sen. Steve K. Mesngon (R-Rota) requested that she approve all humanitarian parole requests of CW-1 workers submitted to her office.

"They never responded yet. Hopefully they'll respond soon," he said when asked about it.

According to the senator, the letter was sent through mail, and he is sure the letter should be there already. He added that his office attempted to obtain an email address to contact USCIS but was unsuccessful.

"I am hoping they have a reply soon. I am really in support of trying to help our CW [workers that got displaced]," said Mesngon.

The letter was written on behalf of the CNMI Senate for the 20th Legislature.

An email from a USCIS representative confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that they have received the letter; however the agency has a policy that prevents the discussion of "official correspondence between elected officials and our leadership."

"Congress previously mandated that USCIS end the program by reducing the number of workers to zero by Dec. 31, 2019. The intent of phasing out this foreign worker program is to encourage the territory's transition into the U.S. immigration system, as well as to bolster recruitment of U.S. workers in the CNMI," said the USCIS representative.

In a previous Senate session, Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) said that USCIS should present guidelines on what steps foreign workers could take once their CW-1 applications are denied.

Citing this lack of guidelines, Mesngon said in his letter that the recent reduction of CW-1 slots for fiscal year 2018 in late November 2017 resulted in a large number of foreign workers under the program to be denied work permits.

"There are hundreds, if not thousands, of displaced CW-1 workers and their families in the CNMI," said Mesngon in his letter.

USCIS reduced the maximum number of CW-1 slots by 3,000, effectively setting the cap at 9,998 for fiscal year 2018. For fiscal year 2017, the cap is set at 12,998.



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mazda

Okeanos Marianas to provide free rides to Pika Festival

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The *Okeanos Marianas* will be offering free rides to and from the Pika Festival for Saipan residents in order for crewmembers of the traditional canoe to gain sailing experience.

Okeanos Marianas Sustainable Sea Transport LTD man-

aging director Emma Perez said the *Okeanos Marianas* will be used to help transport Saipan residents to the island of Tinian for the 14th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival from Feb. 17 to 19.

"The rides would be free because we are still doing our training sails for the crew," she said.

The *Okeanos Marianas* will serve as an alternate means of transportation for Saipan locals.

Perez has yet to finalize the schedule so interested individuals can reach Perez at 285-7342 for additional information.

Other means of transportation to the festival is the ferry that will be provided by the

Marianas Visitors Authority and Star Marianas Airlines, which will be providing evening flights as late as 10pm.

MVA is urging the public to act fast and reserve ferry seats for the 14th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

The MVA has already secured a ferry for Saipan's residents to celebrate with Tinian

locals at the upcoming Pika Festival but seats are filling up quick.

According to MVA community projects coordinator Ray Villagomez, the ferry can only take up to 39 passengers per trip and already over 20 individuals have reserved spots on the ferry for the festival's opening night.

Villagomez said the ferry seats are limited and it is a first-come, first-serve basis for anyone interested.

The ferry will only take on passengers from early morning and take passengers back in the evening. Ferry rides will only be offered from Feb. 18 to 19. Roundtrip tickets are set at \$35 per person.

Masiwemai, Mareham get Senate OK

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Both of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' appointees to the Commonwealth Election Commission and Commonwealth Scholarship Office board were approved last Friday.

Patricia Mareham was unanimously approved for the CEC position as the

female Carolinian representative of Saipan while Charlene Masiwemai was approved unanimously for a slot on the CSO board.

Masiwemai was nominated last Dec. 29, 2017, but was unable to attend the Senate session on Capital Hill last week.

"The Committee on Executive Appointments and

Government Investigations recommends that the Senate give its advice and consent to [Masiwemai] to serve as a member of the CSO board," said committee chair Sen. Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian) on the Senate floor.

The committee expressed the same for Mareham.

Mareham, who is an outreach coordinator at the Wom-

en's Affairs Office, said she would be of as much help as possible to the CEC.

"I will do my best with my colleagues to see what we can do about the challenges we had in prior years," she said.

Mareham would be filling former commissioner Trinidad Rabauliman's slot at the CEC.

"I'm just new, so I would need to go by the book and pick up fast," she said. "I would do my best to serve the Refaluwasch community."

SAILS

From Page 1

It's good to honor a chief of Saipan because this is going to be Saipan's canoe. Everyone knows the chiefs of Guam and they know about Chief Taga but not too many people know any Saipan chief names," he said.

Perez said the canoe was built based off of the same Chamorro canoe drawing that was used to build *Neni* a few years earlier, so the vessel deserves a Chamorro name.

"Now that it is here, we want all our canoes to be named after people who have passed. We don't know who

Roberta L...but we want to honor our ancestors by naming all the 500 Sails canoes after someone who has passed... everyone of them after *Neni*," he said.

The canoe will be placed in the ocean a day or two before the festival so that it can be sailed into the Lunar New Year festival where she will have an official unveiling and name blessing ceremony.

The *Roberta L* is a 40-foot, 57-year-old Chamorro-inspired canoe that was built in the '60s by a couple of steel workers.

The first canoe of 500 Sails was called *Neni*, followed by the *Richard Seman*.

Patrick Calvo withdraws lawsuit vs DOC official

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Convicted child molester Patrick M. Calvo has withdrawn his petition filed in federal court that challenged his alleged unlawful imprisonment at the Department of Corrections.

Calvo, through counsel Bruce Berline, filed a notice last Friday notifying the U.S. District Court for the NMI of his voluntary dismissal, without prejudice, of his petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

Dismissal without prejudice means Calvo may re-file the petition in the future.

Habeas corpus refers to a court order to a prison warden or an institution holding someone in custody to deliver the im-

prisoned individual to the court.

Berline did not indicate the reason for dropping his client's petition.

Last Jan. 19, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued a show-cause order directing Calvo to explain why his petition should not be dismissed for lack of prosecution.

Manglona gave Calvo until last Friday to file his response.

Calvo filed the petition in court on April 6, 2016. He was required to serve summons on Department of Corrections official Georgia M. Cabrera within 90 days of filing the petition.

To date, the judge noted, Calvo has not requested a summons be issued or served

Cabrera, who, at the time, was the acting commissioner.

In September 2009, a Superior Court jury found Calvo guilty of sexually abusing a then-13-year-old girl in 2008.

On May 27, 2010, Naraja sentenced Calvo to eight years in prison. Calvo appealed, asking the CNMI Supreme Court to reverse his conviction and set a new trial.

In July 2014, the high court upheld Calvo's conviction. The justices, however, ordered the Superior Court to redo the sentencing because it imposed probation, restitution, and community service without suspending some of Calvo's prison term.

At the resentencing hearing in September 2016, Superior

Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja slapped Calvo with a seven-year prison term.

Calvo's jail term is considered commenced as of May 25, 2010. His release date from DOC Corrections was May 25, 2017. After completing the prison term, Calvo was placed on probation for seven years.

In Calvo's petition for habeas corpus, Berline argued, among other things, that the Commonwealth's integration into the U.S. political and judicial system establishes that the Sixth Amendment jury trial right is a fundamental constitutional right.

Berline said that denying Calvo of this right was contrary to or unreasonable application of the Sixth Amendment jurisprudence.

TRADE

From Page 1

ter-state travel, Castro said, as opposed to intra-state, which is subject to separate tax laws for each state or territory.

"We challenge ourselves to look at what is not only existing...but what we want to see happen; to foster the right climate for the exchange of goods and commodities in order to achieve the goal of food security before and after calamity," Castro told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Marianas Working Group, which broke into seven smaller groups, included several key Cabinet members from the CNMI.

According to Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, who participated in discussions on finance and taxation, said there were several comparisons made between the two governments and how each handle their finances.

"Guam talked a lot about what they did to leverage their public utilities," said Larson, adding that Guam floated bonds. "We were comparing notes on the bonds they floated, the bonds we floated, how they paid for their bonds, and how we do also. It was really interesting," she added.

Larson said teleconference meetings would ensue between the two government regarding finances.

The similarities in issues were what kept the discussions going.

"We are all struggling with

the same issues, so it was really good," said Larson. She added that discussions were also held on possibly supporting one another on federal legislations.

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, who was a member of the Labor and Education Group, told *Saipan Tribune* that both the CNMI and Guam share pressing labor concerns that hinder economic growth.

"...It's a matter of our vicinity on the globe and the unique challenges we have. We don't have easy access to a supplemental labor market, so the discussions we've had have been fruitful...two days isn't enough," he said.

On the CNMI's side, a lot has been learned from the programs that Guam has implemented.

"This is a beginning of a process. I think there may be some other things we could include in the future topic-wise," Hunter said, adding that tourism, arts and culture, and language could be areas that both territories have mutual interests in.

Outside of the working group, Hunter said consultations between both governments are to ensue in the near future.

The Marianas Working Group is a result of a memorandum of understanding signed between the CNMI and Guam last Dec. 17, 2017, when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo signed the MOU to support one another on shared issues.

CW

From Page 1

also introduced a measure, H.R. 4869, that is similar to Murkowski's bill.

Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) said that S. 2325, if enacted, would provide "tremendous relief" to the large number of CW slots that were slashed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for fiscal year 2018.

"The passage of S.2325 will restore the needed labor force

absent from available U.S. local [workers] and provide the CNMI with the much needed time to train available U.S. local residents to sustain our economic development in the years to come," said Quitugua. He believes, along with several other CNMI senators, that the local CNMI Department of Labor should be more involved with the CW registration process.

"[The CNMI Department of Labor should] ensure that local labor laws are complied with and to not repeat the 'ghost'

CW permits incident where CW permits were issued without readily available bodies to work," he said, adding that the CNMI in turn must also do its due diligence to uphold its end of the bargain.

"In the meantime, all stakeholders must work together for a sustainable economy so we can ensure continued prosperity to the people of the CNMI."

Not extending the CW program could ultimately affect even the public sector through a major economic plunge, said

edly this Thursday, Feb. 8.

Arriola's disbarment came as a result of his conviction in federal court for pleading guilty in 2010 to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and wire fraud.

In October 2010, he started to serve his 58-month prison term. He was required to pay \$625,775 in restitution with co-defendant, Luis K. Pelisamen.

from practicing law in the CNMI. The same order said that, before being admitted to practice law, Arriola "shall take and pass the CNMI Bar Exam, including the Multi-state Professional Responsibility Examination."

Last July 13, Arriola filed the petition for reinstatement. The high court then set the matter for a hearing suppos-

PETITION

From Page 1

has paid all fines or costs; and a copy of the petitioner's character and fitness application.

The justices said that Arriola's petition does not include such prerequisites.

In September 2010, the Superior Court disbarred Arriola

Lunar New Year party opens dog parade, vendor registration

The Lunar New Year Party in the Marianas on Feb. 16-17, 2018, is now accepting registration for The Marianas Barkus Dog Parade, as well as food/beverage and snack vendors.

The dog parade welcomes owners to bring their best dressed dogs (and humans!) for a parade from Carolinian Affairs Office parking grounds to the party venue at Garapan Fishing Base. At the same time, the Saipan Mayor's Office will offer dog adoption and registration at the festival grounds, and Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources will provide de-worming services.

"DFS is pleased to lead the organization of this first-ever Marianas Barkus Dog Parade, in celebration of the Chinese Year of Dog," said Jamika Reyes Taijeron, parade organizer and DFS Promotions manager. "We can't wait to see how the dogs and owners are dressed up. This is a great opportunity to celebrate man's best friend and the parade will be a delight for the community and island visitors to experience. For those interested, we are encouraging early registration and will be giving out a special doggie bag with a small gift for the first 25 registrations"

The cost is a \$5 minimum donation, and all proceeds will be donated to the Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Control Program/Animal Shelter. DFS will also match all registration donations in support of the mayor's animal shelter.

To register in advance, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/

marianasbarkusdogparade.

Registration on Feb. 17 will also open at the Carolinian Affairs parking grounds at 4pm, and the parade will be at 5pm. All dogs must be leashed. For more information, email marianasbarkusdogparade@gmail.com.

Separately, applications for food/snack and beverage vendors are now available from the Commonwealth Council of Arts & Culture. Fees are \$20 for application, \$200 for food/snack vendors (10 maximum) and \$600 for beverage vendors (four maximum). Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis, and vendors must comply with all regulatory requirements. For more information or an application, contact CCAC at 322-9982.

The Lunar New Year Party will be held from 5pm to 10pm and aims to unite all cultures in the Marianas who utilize the lunar calendar in a multicultural celebration.

Stage entertainment will be highlighted by the Shanghai Sinma Acrobatic Troupe performing at 8pm on both nights. Indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian teachings will be shared interactively by fishermen, farmers, the CNMI Historic Preservation Office, and Office of Fish & Wildlife.

Celestial navigation canoe rides and storytelling will be offered by Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc. Canoe Federation, 500 Sails, Okeanos Marianas, and Makalii Teenager from the Carolinian Affairs office.

Calligraphy will be provided on Feb. 16 by the Chinese community, and on Feb.

17 the Korean community will perform contemporary dances. On Feb. 17, the party will recognize and award 200 "most improved" students from the CNMI Public School System, and on Feb. 18, reserved seating will be provided for the elderly. Additional acrobatic performances are scheduled for Tinian and Rota on Feb. 15.

For more information or to sponsor the Lunar New Year Party in the Marianas, contact chair Charles Cepeda at charlesvcepeda@gmail.com. (PR)



The Shanghai Sinma Acrobatic Troupe will highlight the stage entertainment at the Lunar New Year Party in the Marianas on Feb. 16-17, 2018, from 5pm to 10pm at the Garapan Fishing Base. The party aims to unite all cultures in the Marianas that use the lunar calendar for two nights of multicultural celebration.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Administrators sought for S&NISWCD

The Department Of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, and the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform general farmers and farmers of the Kagman Commercial Farm Plot that there will be a meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, at 9am at the Division of Agriculture Kagman station. Topics to be discussed will include the upcoming election of S&NISWCD administrators.

DLNR is looking for farmers to be administrators of the S&NISWCD. If you are interested or would like to get information on this matter, call Diane Gabaldon at 256-3319. (PR)

Emergency water outage

There is an emergency water service interruption in the San Antonio, Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe and San Jose areas due to a 12-inch distribution waterline break on the As Perdido and Texas Road intersection that was identified over the weekend.

Water operations personnel of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. were expected to finish repair work last night. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services soon thereafter.

For the safety of our men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution when traveling through the area or to take alternative routes.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (CUC)

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ABTC workshop held for alcohol, tobacco, betel nut retailers

Over 200 business representatives took part in the Alcohol, Beverage, and Tobacco Control Licensee Workshop at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman stated that the ABTC Division under the Department of Commerce held an informational and regulation update workshop for alcohol, tobacco and betel nut retailers.

"We met with small retailers as well as operators of restaurants, bars, and night clubs. The workshop focused on educating businesses licensed by the ABTC Division on the mandate for monthly sales reports for alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.

"We also shared updates on the alcoholic beverage control laws that implements the new Class-8 Casino Li-

quor License and Class-9 E-Gaming License. This was an amendment made by Public Law 19-30 authorizing both the Casino and E-Gaming establishments to sell alcoholic beverages for 24 hours.

"We also addressed the newly implemented betel nut control regulations as created by Public Law 19-66. These outreach efforts are part of the ongoing and continued resolution of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in strengthening public and private partnership by updating and educating businesses on the changes and requirements of the laws affecting their licenses," Rabauliman said.

According to ABTC director David Maratita, the division control regulations and the new betel nut control rules and regulations will fully take effect on Feb. 7, 2018.

Maratita elaborated that the new Class-8 Casino Liquor License and Class-9 E-Gaming Liquor License are applicable only to those business classes or category.

Maratita says that while Public Law 19-30 recognizes the potential negative impact that may occur by allowing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages for 24 hours per day, the authorization and condition of the special casino liquor license and the e-gaming liquor license are strictly confined within the casino and e-gaming establishments.

"One of conditions prior to the issuance of license is to have the employees of the casino and e-gaming establishments attend the required ABTC certification training in selling and serving alcoholic beverages responsibly, to en-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division director David R. Maratita educates over 200 licensed businesses engaged in the sales of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and betel nut products about the new laws and regulations administered by ABTC.

sure compliance on the restrictions prohibiting the sale and service of alcoholic beverages to an obviously intoxicated individual. ABTC has been conducting the certification training to casino and e-gaming employees in preparation for the new regulations that will follow the issuance of the casino and e-gaming liquor licenses. The amended alcoholic beverage control rules and regulations implementing the issuance of the new Class-8 casino liquor license and Class-9 e-gaming liquor license will take effect this week," Maratita said.

The current law states that the license fee for Class-8 casino liquor license is \$20,000, while the e-gaming liquor license fee is \$10,000.

Maratita further added that the new law authorizing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages for 24 hours at the casino and e-gaming establishments changes everything with respect to the business landscape and its enforcement mandates.

"Due to these changes, the ABTC Division will be on the clock 24/7 to provide services with regards to the inspection of these establishments

and collaboration with the Department of Public Safety in safeguarding the community from the harms of alcohol such as drunk driving and other elements associated to alcohol intoxication and violations of other CNMI laws. Moving forward, we encourage the general public to call the division's 24-hour hotline at 285-1821 to report any violations of the alcoholic beverage and tobacco control laws," Maratita said.

ABTC supervisor Vince Palacios noted that many businesses have commended the efforts of ABTC in reaching out to the community to ensure that they are well informed of new amended laws.

"Many business establishments were not aware of our new amendments with regards to both our alcohol and tobacco laws, including the new betel nut control regulations. We received a great deal of positive feedback from the information disseminated during the workshop. We reiterate that if businesses still need assistance, our office is available to help," Palacios said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the workshop works toward ensuring businesses will

continue to be in compliance.

"We want to emphasize and recognize that the ABTC law enforcement officers are peace officers with full arresting authority and firearm capabilities. While this aids in enforcement, these workshops and outreach campaigns aim to prevent the need to use force. With the increase in commercial activity, and improvements to regulations, I commend the collaboration and consistent foresight of the Department of Commerce and the ABTC team with our private sector," Torres said.

The ABTC Division is working toward bringing the workshop to businesses on Tinian and Rota.

All retailers who sell betel nut, including importers and local distributors of betel nut, are required to obtain a license from the Department of Commerce, Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division. Application forms for the Class-8 casino liquor license and Class-9 e-gaming license as well as the application for betel nut control license are now available for downloading via the department's website at <http://commerce.gov.mp/divisions/alcohol-tobacco/>. Applications may also be picked up at the Department of Commerce, One Stop Regulatory Processing Center in Capitol Hill, as well as the offices of the Department of Commerce on Tinian and Rota.

The new licensing and filing fees required under Public Law 19-66 as adopted through regulations are as follows:

■ **Class-1: Betelnut Import/Distributor License:** \$75 license fee, \$50 filing fee;


■ **Class-2: Betelnut Retail Sales License:** \$75 license fee, \$50 filing fee.

The new licensing and filing fees required under Public Law 19-30 as adopted through regulations are as follows:


■ **Class-8: Special Casino Liquor License:** \$20,000 license fee, \$50 filing fee;

■ **Class-9: Special E-Gaming Liquor License:** \$10,000 licensee fee, \$50 filing fee.

For more information about the workshop and the new laws, contact the ABTC Division at 664-8024, 285-1821 or via email at info@commerce.gov.mp. **(PR)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-18-IFB-009

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ANIMAL SHELTER BUILDING AS PERDIDO, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Construction of New Animal Shelter, As Perdido, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 6, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 22, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the project site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 2, 2018** to **Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Ms. Crystal C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-18-IFB-009**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time March 7, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 7, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 7, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **March 16, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, March 21, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 7, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:


- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2009

For: Local Publication and Media Services

<p>Submission /Closing Date: Time:</p> <p>Submit sealed proposals to:</p>	<p>February 23, 2018 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Marianas Visitors Authority Procurement Office San Jose Professional Building Beach Rd., San Jose P.O. Box 500861 Saipan, MP 96950</p>
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Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **January 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by February 23, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a Notice of Intent by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **February 23, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on February 09, 2018**.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

MVA launches new promotion with Japan's Rakuten

The Marianas feature in leading Japanese online shopping site Rakuten rolled out last Jan. 31, featuring a "3-day Holiday in The Marianas."

The promotion urges customers to watch the Marianas Visitors Authority's new

"The Marianas" video, tweet on Twitter what they want to do in the islands, and then book hotel rooms via Rakuten Travel. In doing so, customers will earn Rakuten shopping points.

"Our new promotion with

Rakuten allows customers to help us promote some of the most popular activities in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, such as enjoying the beautiful ocean, enjoying marine activities, feeling nature or local life, and learning about our history and

culture," said MVA Marketing manager Broc Calvo. "These are some of the unique attractions our islands offer, and we welcome the Twitter buzz we are receiving in Japan through this promotion."

Rakuten, also known as the

"Amazon of Japan," is the largest e-commerce site in Japan, operating in 29 countries and regions and offering financial technology, digital content and communications services to over 1 billion members around the world.

Its services include online shopping, media, travel reservations, and marketing and data analysis.

The Marianas promotion at https://special.infoseek.co.jp/event/mariana/will_continue_through_March_24,2018. (PR)

Pacifica Insurance offers \$5K as a hole-in-one prize for NMC tourney

To support Northern Marianas College Foundation and its mission of providing quality educational opportunities for residents, Pacifica Insurance recently presented a \$5,000 hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 15th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 2018.

The event will be the first major golf tournament of the year.

"If we believe in the purpose of this fundraiser golf tournament, our students will believe that we support higher education," said Shirley Sablan, president of Pacifica Insurance. "I am confident the NMC Foundation will deliver an exciting and professional tournament, as they've successfully done in past years."

"Pacifica Insurance Co. has been a longtime supporter of Northern Marianas College and we are extremely thankful for their contribution this year," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

The golf tournament is the NMC Foundation's signature event that raises funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"Golfers will be excited for Pacifica's cash prize offering," said Mary Tenorio, NMC Foundation board chair. "Thank you Pacifica Insurance for your continued support."

The 15th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament will be held on Saturday, March 3, 2018, at the west course of Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Show time is at 6am and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights will each receive \$500, while \$300 and \$200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively.

Hole-in-one prizes include a 2017 Toyota Tacoma from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a 2017 Honda HR-V from Joeten Motors, and \$10,000 in cash from Marianas Insurance Co. The tournament will also feature many other items as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meal gift certificates, and much more.

Registration and payment

can be made at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort or the NMC Cashier's Office. For sponsorship opportunities or registration information, visit marianas.edu or call 237-6833. (NMC)

NMC

Pacifica Insurance is offering a \$5,000 hole-in-one prize that will be featured at the upcoming annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 3, 2018. In the photo are Pacifica Insurance employees and NMC staff and students, led by NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, seventh from left.



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Japanese remains to be cremated on Saipan

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group that specializes in the repatriation of Japanese

remains from World War II recently visited the Saipan Mayor's Office to invite Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang to what it said will be the first

cremation ceremony for Japanese remains on the island.

Thousands of Japanese remains in the Northern Marianas were never given a proper

burial in their homeland. The Japanese Association for Recovery and Repatriation of War Casualties have been working tirelessly since June

2017 to acquire the licenses needed to reclaim a number of these Japanese remains.

The association visited Apatang last Friday to invite him to the cremation ceremony today, Feb. 6, at 3:30pm, that will be held at Banadera in Marpi.

According to Apatang, the group will also be visiting the islands of Tinian and Rota where they will also dig up Japanese remains that will be cremated and their ashes brought back to Japan.

Apatang said this is the first time, to his knowledge, that a Japanese cremation ceremony would be held on Saipan.

"I think it is very important to them [the association] because a lot of them want to bring their family back home so they can be laid in their

final resting place. To the Japanese people, that means a lot," he said.

According to Apatang, like the island's residents, the Japanese should be given the opportunity to dig up their ancestors, cremate their remains, and bring them home.

About 15 visited the Saipan Mayor's Office last Friday. One of them, 80-year-old Histao Hito, told Apatang that he was in the Marianas during the war and about six of his relatives were buried on the island of Tinian.

Hito plans to have his relatives' remains cremated and, after over 70 years, bring them home.

The ceremony will be open to the public and for anyone who wishes to pay their respects. Interested individuals can call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 for inquiries.



From left, Board of Education chair Marylou Ada, board member Herman Guerrero, 2018 Counselor of the Year Marjorie Quinto, Hopwood Middle School principal Rizalina M. Liwag, Education Commissioner Glen Muña, and associate commissioner Yvonne R. Pangelinan at the proclamation signing of "National Counselor's Week" last Friday at Hopwood Middle School.

BEA CABRERA

Feb. 5-9 is 'National Counselor's Week' at PSS

By **BEA CABRERA**
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System declared last Friday the week of Feb. 5 to 9 as "National Counselor's Week."

Marjorie Quinto, the Board of Education's 2018 Counselor of the Year, was joined at the proclamation signing last Friday at Hopwood Middle School by board chair Marylou Ada, Education Commissioner Glen Muña, board members Herman Guerrero, associate commissioner Yvonne R. Pangelinan, and Hopwood Middle School principal Rizalina M. Liwag.

"This is one way to show our appreciation to all the counselors for all the awesome job that they do. It's a very hard and a tasking job to take care of 10,000 children. They mentor, nurture them, and they also make sure that everything is okay," Ada said.

"It is especially challenging now because some students are in a state of crisis—bullying and peer pressure are prevalent among students. The school counselors are the ones handling those things and make sure the kids take on a positive career path, make the child feel safe, and teach them how to get along with other children," Ada added.

Pangelinan said that counselors are the hearts of schools. "They help to chart path for each of the students and address so many issues from emotional to social, academics, and developmental needs of our students."

"Counselors Week also helps build awareness in the community of the role of school counselors. A long time ago, maybe, your school counselor helped you with your SAT scores, helped you find a college, called your mom when you were sick, passed

out hygiene [tips]. The role of a school counselor today has changed dramatically, addressing what happens outside the school, in the community, in the student's own family, and in the world," she added.

Quinto is also thankful for the recognition that many counselors like her will experience during the week.

"This is very important not just to me but to all the counselors here in the CNMI. We work with the children as soon as they clock in the morning, they are with us with you all the way even when the students are at home already," she said.

"This year will also be different because almost every year, we have professional development activity outside of our school where we are taken away from our schools. This year, PSS decided that we will stay in our respective schools so we can stay with

the students that we work with, including the teachers and administrative staff," she added.

According to Ada, the week will be filled with various activities.

"Every school will have their own plans because every school will show appreciation to their counselors. This is a big week for school counselors, where they will be thanked and appreciated, not only by the students but also by the parents, co-teachers, and other school administrative staff," she said.

"The counselors are also going on a retreat for a day where they will be with other counselors to discuss among themselves how are they going to improve themselves and help each other on pressing issues as far as students are concerned, so that they can be all on the same page on how to deal with them. With our counselors, nothing is impossible to conquer," she added.

Store allegedly has no parking for handicapped

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man on a wheelchair is suing a clothing store in Chalan Piao for allegedly not having parking space for the handicapped, in violation of the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act.

Thomas K. Sablan accused Tapo Shopping and its owner, 3H Corp., of discriminating against him, in violation of the ADA, by denying him the opportunity to participate and benefit from the goods, services, and accommodation of the store.

Sablan, through counsel Shelli Neal, asked the Superior Court to stop Tapo Shopping and 3H Corp. from discriminating against him.

When asked for comments yesterday, Tapo Shopping owner Chong Yan Hua said that Neal called her about the problem two weeks ago and that they immediately put in place a parking slot for the handicapped.

Hua said that Neal stated she would come to the store and see for herself.

Sablan asked the court to order Tapo Shopping to make the store readily accessible to and usable by those with disabilities, as required by ADA.

Sablan asked the court to order Tapo Shopping to install a stable, firm, and slip resistant accessible parking lot with clearly marked accessible parking space, a clearly marked accessible route to the entrance and accessible ramps.

Only 5 bankruptcy cases filed in 2017

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only five bankruptcy cases were filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI in 2017, according to court records.

All five bankruptcy cases were filed last November and December. Except for Saipan Sea Ventures, all cases were filed by individuals.

Sea Ventures filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition, while the individuals filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

Under Chapter 11 bankruptcy, a debtor is allowed to enter into an agreement with creditors under which all or part of the business continues. The objective is to adjust and reorganize a debtor's obligations so as to allow the business to continue.

Saipan Sea Ventures' case is closed.

In case of Chapter 7 bankruptcy, most assets of the debtor are liquidated as quickly as possible to pay off his or her creditors to the extent possible and to free the debtor to start anew.

Only one of the four Chapter 7 cases is closed. Among those pending is the case filed by a former Office of the Public Auditor employee who is facing a theft case in the Superior Court.

No one so far has filed a bankruptcy petition this year.

In 2016, only four bankruptcy cases were filed. All were individuals.

In 2015, eight bankruptcy cases were filed, including that of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

The all-time highest record of bankruptcy cases in the CNMI was in 2005 when 31 cases were filed.

Nominations open for the 2018 Businesswoman of the Year

MAITE, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank and the *Guam Business* magazine are seeking nominations for the 13th Businesswoman of the Year. Nominees must be residents of Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands.

Nominees should meet the following criteria: a businesswoman who has made a significant difference in her industry through her organization or her business, has contributed to her community, is a leading representative of her profession or field, and displays the best qualities of a woman in business.

Nominations must be submitted by Feb. 13.

The winner will be announced at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on April 28 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

The gala is also a fundraiser for the Businesswoman of the Year scholarship program.

The scholarships, open to both full-time and part-time college students, are intended to promote higher education by providing financial assistance to University of Guam, Guam Community College, or Northern Marianas College students pursuing careers in business or a related field.

Previous awardees include Ramona L. Jones, CEO, Jones & Guerrero Co. Inc. (2017); Sophia Chu Wigsten, general manager, Hyatt Regency Guam (2016); Joann G. Camacho, director of mar-

ket development, DFS Guam (2015); Shirley Ann T. Sablan, executive vice president and general manager, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. (2014); F. Marie Calvo-Monge, chief operating officer and executive producer, Pacific Telestations Inc., which does business as KUAM (2013); Mary P. Rhodes, president, Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association and President, MARQ Consulting Services (2012); Joyce Quinata Crisostomo, executive director, Cars Plus and President, Payless Car Rental (2011); Anna Wang Kao, founder and president, Genghis Khan Furniture Co. (2010); Lorraine S. Okada, president and owner, Managing Consult-

ing Services (2009); Julianne Rose Perez Duenas, physical therapist, owner and clinical director, Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc. (2008); Christine Won Pat Baletto, general manager, Market Wholesale Distributors (2007); and Katherine C. Sgro, executive vice president and chairwoman of the board, Pay-Less Markets Inc. (2006).

For more information or to submit a nomination, contact Meghan Hickey, business editor, *Guam Business*, at (671) 649-0883 Ext. 126 or businesseditor@glimpsesofguam.com, or Barbie Jane Agahan, assistant advertising manager, First Hawaiian Bank at (671) 475-7908 or bagahan@fhhb.com. (PR)



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SR, 4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White, STK#U17-130L
WAS \$25,999*
NOW \$24,999*



2014 Tacoma 2WD, DC
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-139T
NOW \$26,899*



2015 Tacoma Double Cab
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Black, STK#U17-132T
NOW \$26,999*



2017 Tacoma 2WD, DC, SR5
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#R17-026F
NOW \$27,599*



2013 4Runner SR5
4WD, V-6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-134T
NOW \$27,699*



2014 Tacoma DC
4x4, V6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-111T
WAS \$30,599*
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WAS \$31,399*
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WAS \$30,229*
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2015 Toyota Sienna LE
Mileage 12,665, 8-pax Van, Red, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-050R
WAS \$34,499*
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2015 Tacoma DC
V6, Auto, 4WD, Blue, STK#U17-097T
WAS \$33,399*
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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

The Nunes memo that did not live up to the hype

To quote former FBI Director James Comey: That's it? After an inexcusable buildup, House Republicans have released a memo purporting to show that the Department of Justice investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election was tainted by partisanship. Instead, the memo reveals that the investigation is legitimate—and vitally necessary.

The memo, released with the blessing of Speaker Paul Ryan and President Donald Trump but over the objections of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Justice Department, expresses “concerns” over government interactions with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which must approve any FBI effort to surveil U.S. citizens. It further raises the specter of a “troubling breakdown of legal processes” in the surveillance approval process.

But, to quote Comey again, these claims are dishonest and misleading. They are also refuted by the memo itself.

Its “proof” of partisan bias is the so-called Steele dossier, which the court partly relied on to grant the surveillance request (other information on which the court relied is classified). Yes, the dossier was funded by Democrats, and the memo asserts the FBI failed to inform the court of this. But the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence committee disputes that claim, which may be among the reasons why Ryan has so far forbidden him from releasing his own memo.

In any case, legally speaking, the information's provenance is less relevant than its reliability. Judges have a lot of practice assessing information from biased informants, who after all are the most common kind.

Even worse, the memo undercuts its own case by conceding that the surveillance requests originated with information that had nothing to do with the dossier. The target of the surveillance, onetime Trump foreign policy adviser Carter Page, had attracted FBI notice for his interaction with Russian agents as far back as 2013. The memo notes that the FBI's counterintelligence investigation began in July 2016, before it knew of the Steele dossier.

Of course, the memo's larger aim—discrediting the investigation—becomes even more difficult when viewed in context. It's hard to argue that an investigation is a partisan Democratic ruse when it's run by a Republican special counsel who was appointed by Trump's own Justice Department.

The real trouble, of course, is not that the investigation is based on anything biased or bogus. It's that it appears all too legitimate. It has already produced two guilty pleas, including one from the former national security adviser, and two indictments, including one of the president's former campaign chairman.

The guilty pleas and indictments show special counsel Robert Mueller is on the right track. Congress's focus now should be on ensuring that he be allowed to complete his investigation.

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A great continuing concern

By RICK PEREZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A Feb. 19, 2016, article published in the *Saipan Tribune*, titled “The US military plan for live-fire exercises in the CNMI by the numbers,” begs for more questions and more discussion two years later.

The Mariana Islands represent the only home island chain of the ancient Chamorro and Chamolinian people. The absolute landmass of our islands is tiny, unique, and of ancient origins. The proposed CJMT land use hold for an already small and ancient island chain civilization, in my opinion, is too much to ask for because not only is 25 percent an already large amount of land to control, but the nature of activities proposed will inherently produce damage and destruction beyond domains that are not included in the 25 percent figure provided.

The MITT is, I believe, the largest armed forces range in the world. It includes all war-fighting domains: information, cyber, maritime, land, air, space and land. The MITT is also a construction of Pentagon and national security planners and did not fully include the concerns, wishes, desires and anxieties of the Pacific islanders from the Marianas.

FDM is already damaged and compromised and it must be remembered that the Marianas is one geographical formation of 15 or 16 tiny landmasses. Once it is gone or damaged, it cannot be reversed.

In my opinion, the total stated number of artillery shells, mortars, rockets, hand grenades, air delivered bombs, small munitions, and other weapons cited in the Feb. 19 article, which approximates 315 million separate items, is an understatement because the assumption that Tinian and Pagan will be used for up to 20 weeks per year is wrong. I believe the more accurate week count sought is close to 46, if not higher, over the long term.

One piece of information that was not included in the Feb. 19 article, which is equally important to know, is what is the total weight equivalent of the hundreds of millions of ammo, bombs and ordnance items expected to be used?

The sheer amounts of ordnance used on Tinian or Pagan will create an environmental waste island domain that cannot be cleaned up. In my opinion, this is unacceptable and wrong because it is too much to bear for a small island chain population

that relies on limited landmasses and surrounding ocean areas to practice their culture and daily living patterns.

The Marianas is an island chain located in a part of the world that has regular extreme weather patterns. Typhoons, heavy rains, and winds will spread hazardous and toxic chemical substances and distribute these substances into the surrounding maritime domain. This fact alone is of great environmental and cultural concern.

References made to Vieques in the Feb. 19 article cannot be understated. Vieques was used as a location for mock invasions and weapons training including land mines being buried after beach assaults were completed. The tiny island north of Vieques, Culebra, was also heavily exploited for military training.

Close to 200 different kinds of weapons were used on Vieques over a 50-year period. The U.S., along with the Germans, British, and French, used Vieques to practice all aspects of beach invasion tactics. Vieques was visited by hundreds of thousands of troops over time. The environmental nightmare of Vieques lingers without much fanfare and focus because the island remains a contaminated island of waste that most people don't know or care about, except for the people from Vieques.

My biggest worry for the Chamorro and Chamolinian people of the Mariana Islands should the Pentagon and allied militaries use Tinian and Pagan as proposed, is related to the continued and total human health and environmental wellbeing of our tiny island chain.

The bombs and ordnance used by the military will introduce many toxic substances such as lead, mercury, and cadmium, which are known to be persistent neurotoxins, endocrine disruptors and carcinogens and nothing in tort law can prevent these poisons from harming our tiny islands and tiny islander civilization. I worry about the future of young islanders contracting rare diseases such as neuroblastoma and I worry about damaged beach and coastal and undersea ecosystems being ravaged beyond repair. I worry about fish and marine mammals being poisoned and I worry about the haggan in the region.

Guam is part of the Marianas Island chain and this cannot be disputed. I view the lack of one comprehensive EIS produced by the Pentagon on total environmental and human health impacts on the Marianas Island chain from total training aspirations as egregious, and because of this, I oppose the Pentagon's desire to train on Tinian and Pagan.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Scientists: They're not who you think

“You have a degree in what?” I get that question frequently because I work in the construction business, and no one expects that I have a bachelor's in physics. As federal lawmakers iron out details of the fiscal year 2018 budget, they should keep in mind that science deserves strong support, since it trains people like me for so many different careers that propel the American economy.

Myths abound when it comes to science and career options; let me shatter four of them.

First, we're not who you think we are. The vast majority of us with bachelor's degrees in physics don't work in universities; 60 percent of us work in the private sector. And that's true of all science degree holders. We're not in ivory towers at gated universities. Instead, we're in construction, agriculture and manufacturing. We develop and build for this country. So, the next time you see someone in a hard hat, remember that person might be a scientist.

Second, science degree holders are not all super geniuses. Maybe you've watched the “Big Bang Theory,” and you think we're all Sheldon Cooper. I have a passion for science, but the similarity stops there. We don't all ace high school calculus. The fact is, science is open to being pursued by anyone who has the desire and interest.

Third, my interest in science wasn't a temporary enthusiasm. I didn't look back on my life and say: “Whew, I'm glad I got that out of my system.” Instead, during high school, I honed my electrical skills while working for a master electrician in Silver Spring, Md. Later, at his urging, I took the exam to also become a master electrician after getting my degree. I recall having a good understanding of calculations, including the physical factors that play a part in them, as well as the importance of wire conductivity.

While working as an electrician, my science background

was crucial to understanding LEDs (light-emitting diodes), including how to wire them and deal with their limitations. I also comprehend the wavelength of light that LEDs emit and how it differs from an incandescent bulb.

Today, I work at Cooper Construction Services in Gaithersburg, Md., as an estimator, a person who consults with clients to determine general construction costs.

And my physics degree keeps paying dividends through critical-thinking skills and the comprehension of spreadsheets and budgets.

So, like many in my generation who graduated from college in 2008, I haven't followed a straight and predictable career path. In an increasingly competitive economy, having a background in science is worth every nickel. For example, the unemployment rate of science degree holders is just a few percent, and the jobs we fill have competitive starting salaries. Compare that to film study majors who have unemployment rates near 13 percent.

The employment success in science is easily explained, and it shatters the last myth: A science degree doesn't close doors; it throws them wide open. I didn't know where I would end up, but I knew that a science degree would take me there. I'm a proud graduate of the University of Maryland, and I knew that my degree in physics wasn't going to narrow my options. Instead, I knew that I'd learn the problem-solving skills and practical laboratory nuts-and-bolts that would open up a range of career paths.

I have the federal government to thank for making a lot of this possible. The University of Maryland provides one of the country's best programs in physics, in part, because it has a research environment supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Office of Science at the Department of Energy. The federal

By JOE IADAROLA

The Baltimore Sun



Joe Iadarola is an estimator at Cooper Construction Services. He wrote this for the Baltimore Sun.

funding of science enables students to participate in undergraduate research opportunities that prepare them for the diverse career opportunities ahead.

As President Donald Trump and Congress finalize the federal budget, and as parents and students make decisions on schools and majors, remember that science is a sure-fire way to diverse employment paths. Career opportunities abound. The pay is great. And the rewards are long lasting.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Learn about immigration from Woodrow Wilson

WASHINGTON—A century ago, President Woodrow Wilson addressed a class of newly naturalized American citizens upon their oath-taking at the hallowed Philadelphia Convention Hall. He had some wise words for them that would well-serve his present successor amid his conspicuously ruinous efforts to destroy the American immigration system.

Wilson said then, on May 10, 1915: “This is the only country in the world which experiences this constant and repeated rebirth. Other countries depend upon the multiplication of their own native people. This country is constantly drinking strength out of new sources by the voluntary association with it of great bodies of strong men and forward-looking women out of other lands. And so by the gift of the free will of independent people it is being constantly renewed from generation to generation by the same process by which it was originally created.”

The 28th president continued: “You have taken an oath of allegiance to a great ideal, to a great body of principles, to a great hope of the human race. You have said, ‘We are going to America not only to earn a living ... but to help forward the great enterprises of the human spirit—to let men know everywhere in the world there are men who will cross strange oceans, and go where a speech is spoken which is alien to them if they can but satisfy their quest for what their spirits crave; knowing that whatever the speech, there is but one longing and utterance of the human heart, and that is for liberty and justice.’”

Wilson observed: “I certainly would not be one even to suggest that a man cease to love the home of his birth and the nation of his origin ... but it is one thing to love the place where you were born and another thing to dedicate yourself to the place to which you go. You cannot become thorough Americans if you think of yourselves in groups. America does not consist of groups. A man who thinks of himself as belonging to a particular national group in America has not yet become an American, and the man who goes among you to trade upon

By JULES WITCOVER

Tribune News Service



Jules Witcover's latest book is The American Vice Presidency: From Irrelevance to Power, published by Smithsonian Books. You can respond to this column at juleswitcover@comcast.net.

your nationality is no worthy son to live under the Stars and Stripes.”

He went on: “We came to America, either ourselves or in the persons of our ancestors, to better the ideals of men ... to get rid of the things that divide and to make sure of the things that unite. It was but an historical accident no doubt that this great country was called ‘the United States.’ Yet I am thankful that it has that word ‘United’ in its title, and the man who seeks to divide man from man, group from group, interest from interest in this great Union is striking at its very heart.”

Finally, Wilson said: “Just because you brought dreams with you, America is more likely to realize dreams such as you brought. You are enriching us if you came expecting us to be better than we are.”

Yet Wilson's full-throated praise for America's open-door policy, conceived to maintain the pool of fresh migrant workers with and without special technical and scientific skills, is under heavy fire today in parts of Donald Trump's America. Ironically, Wilson's message that day was overshadowed by pressure put on him to go to war against Germany after the sinking of the British liner Lusitania, in which 128 Americans died.

“There is such a thing as a man being too proud to fight,” he said at the end of the same speech. “There is such a thing as a nation being so right that it does not need to convince others by force that it is right.” As a result, all hell came down on pacifist Wilson for so saying.

His shocking remark was widely published and attacked, leaving his stout defense of America's generous and self-sustaining immigration system to prove its own reward and worth over the next century, and counting. Meanwhile, the current misplaced efforts to disrupt our immigration system go on, under a different president who fails to appreciate its continuing enrichment to the miracle of America.

Lunacy Eclipsed Haiku and Senryu Views

One line haiku and senryu to end January 2018.

January 31st a triple lunar burst, moon watchers thirst its coming, rooty toot toot for the moon, read my lips in one night, watch the moon be super + blue + eclipse sausage and bacon fry, pork pie in the sky, root hog or die rumors of drug ring, arrested for lingering, police fingering Aunt Rhody will tell when the gray goose fell, ring dinner bell food for thought, carrots vision, beets blood, meditation medication

I trump you, drink 12 diet drinks daily, explain soda me insane Trumpocracy, torturing and crippling democracy, with autocracy

double subpoena, Bannon ballerina dance of denial, no smile Bannon pleads the Fifth, just a small part of the Donald myth Sen. RottenCotten & OverduePurdue ‘do not recall’ heard it all

on my honor, do my worse, do the devils duty and casually curse

Stormy Monday Daniels in the lion's den, hear mighty money roar

Read All My Tweets, Yes Read Them All

Inspired by William Shakespeare's sonnet 40.

Read all my tweets, tweet Steve, yes read them all and read them quickly you've heard them before no tweet storm, now and forever, can ever appall now only I can write them and will write more Sloppy Steve, if someone deletes and you don't receive I'll read it on the teleprompter so that you may use no problem with that you know that I never deceive regardless what the lying media says, truth they refuse However I don't forgive you for your deep disloyalty for all you said in that book about me and my family you seemed to forget we're reality TV show royalty now you are out of a job, need never again talk to me You are a sloppy bigly disgrace, your ill will shows insulted Jared with spite, we are now forever foes believe me believe me I'm one who 100% knows as my puerile tweeting insults and insolence grows

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.

▲88° ▼78°

WEDNESDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.

▲88° ▼78°

THURSDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

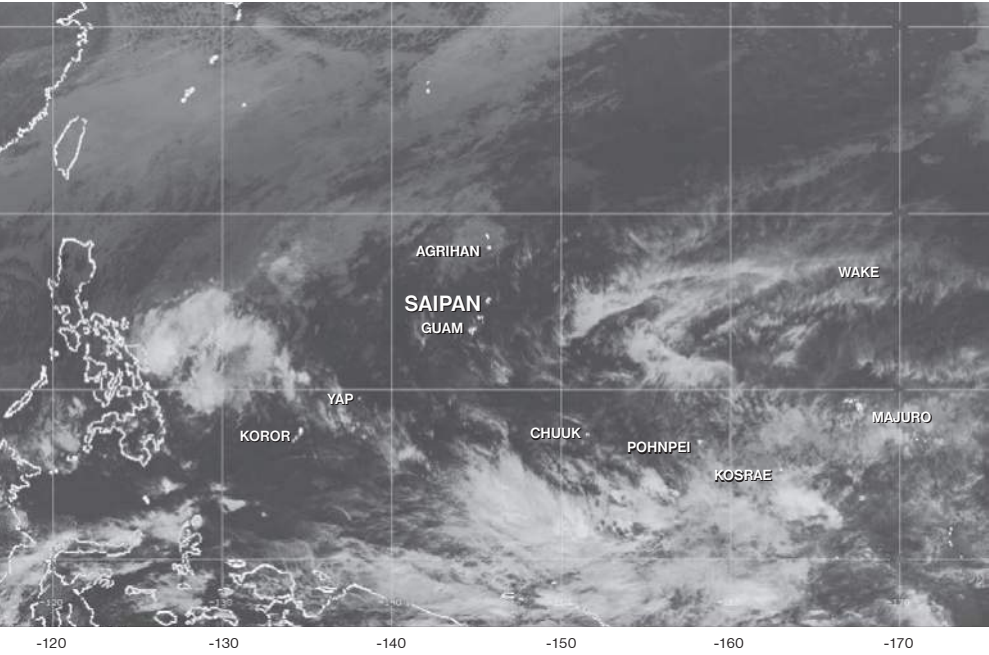
▲87° ▼77°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.

▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:06 AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The forecast is much the same as the previous one, with only minor tweaks to the weather grids, changing slight chance of showers to isolated light showers the next few days. GFS and ECMWF both show increased moisture by Thursday night lasting through Saturday as a shear line drifts down from the northwest and a weak disturbance approaches from the southeast. This should result in more cloudiness, but expect only isolated showers for now.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	75° / 63°	
Beijing	Sunny	36° / 12°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	63° / 54°	
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	78° / 66°	
London	Partly Cloudy	37° / 30°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	75° / 53°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	93° / 68°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 71°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	43° / 30°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	43° / 30°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	37° / 25°	
Busan	Sunny	37° / 25°	
Rome	Rain	55° / 46°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 55°	
San Francisco	Sunny	66° / 50°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	28° / 10°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	45° / 28°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	47° / 32°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:51 AM	LOW TIDE	0.41	
12:08 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.90	
6:59 PM	LOW TIDE	0.52	
-	-	-	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Wednesday	6:44 AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	6:18 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:58 am	11:38 pm
Wednesday	-	11:39 am	-
Thursday	12:28 am	12:21 pm	-
Friday	1:18 am	1:03 pm	-
Saturday	2:07 am	1:48 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

CUC directed to resolve Saipan water supply issues

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David Carter raised concerns on Friday why some parts on Saipan have no 24-hour water supply. He directed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and other parties to put up plans to fully resolve this problem.

Showing in court the island's map, Carter asked CUC to draw circles with different colors the areas that have a 24-hour water supply and those that have no 24-hour water supply. Carter then asked CUC the problems of those areas that have no 24-hour water supply.

The judge then directed CUC and other parties to talk among themselves in the courtroom about finding the solutions, funding, and timeline for the project to complete, among other issues.

After a few minutes of discussions, CUC and U.S. government lawyers presented the answers to Carter.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom Friday afternoon, Carter was still holding the conference.

Stipulated order number 1 requires CUC to have a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved drinking water and wastewater master plan to determine current and future needs for 20 years, and to provide a long-term plan for CUC's drinking water and wastewater improvements.

On the north side of the island, CUC said the areas that have 11-and-a-half hours of water supply are San Roque and Tanapag; those have seven hours are Garapan Hotel Street and Garapan Middle Road.

The areas having only two hours of water supply are Upper Navy Hill, Gloria Drive areas, and China Town areas.

The rest have 24-hour water supply.

On the south side, the areas with 10 hours of water supply are Monsignor Martinez Road in Koberville, As Lito Drive areas, As Terlaje Hill-Chalan Lalau Beach Road and Middle Road, Chalan Pale Arnold-

Quartermaster Road in Gualo Rai, and Tottotville Housing Compound.

Areas having two hours of water supply are Obyan areas.

The rest have 24-hour water supply.

Carter said that CUC's water loss only results in EPA putting money in a system where loss has not decreased. Historically, the problem with water loss is the water meters. Carter said he learned that 9,000 to 10,000 water meters were initially purchased. About 6,000 water meters were bought on the second purchase. He said there was a record of 60 percent to 70 percent of failure with the meters.

When asked for the name of the water meters, CUC's financial manager Bettie Terlaje replied they referred to them as "smart meters."

Carter asked why CUC purchased 6,000 more water meters from the same company when the 9,000 meters that were initially purchased have a 60- to 70-percent failure.

CUC's associate engineer Larry Manacop agreed that there was a big failure and that the 6,000 were just replacements, pursuant to a warranty. Manacop said the 6,000 replacements also failed.

CUC engineer Nicolette Villagomez countered this, saying there was 5- to 10-percent failure rate with the 6,000 replacements. Villagomez said CUC got the replacements for free and CUC is now in the process of sending the defective meters for replacements.

Carter then asked what CUC needs and CUC deputy executive director William Gilmore replied that they need to purchase water meters.

Carter expressed worry that, with the Saipan casino taking off and the resulting rapid economic growth of the island, this will have an impact on CUC's water and power supply. There may be no problem right now but what if there is "something" (development) to follow. The judge said he is afraid that the water and power rates associated with the costs for this economic impact will be passed on to the public.

CUC's legal counsel James

Sirok said they are prepared to answer those questions. Carter said he does not need answer to the questions.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho agreed with Carter about the rapid economic growth, citing that there was a 40-percent increase in power demand in 2016.

Camacho also noted the economic multiplier of the casino. "It's very challenging

to the water and wastewater side and the power side," Camacho said.

He said CUC has dilapidated 25-year-old power plants on Saipan.

Carter praised Camacho for "doing a good job" at CUC but pointed out that it not fair to those not having a 24-hour water supply paying the same rates as those have.

Prior to the entry of stipu-

lated order number 1, U.S. Department of Justice environmental enforcement section senior attorney Bradley O'Brien said only 26 percent of the Saipan population experienced continuous 24-hour drinking water service.

O'Brien cited in his report that with five years of the entry of SO1 and with improvements funded substantially by EPA, the availability of

24-hour Saipan drinking water service reached 94 percent in 2013.

O'Brien said that fell substantially to 73 percent in 2014.

He said that in December 2016, 24-hour drinking water service on Saipan increased to 81 percent and remained at 81 percent in 2017.

Tinian and Rota have 24-hour drinking water service.

DCCA to partner with NMC on respite care program

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is in the process of partnering up with the Northern Marianas College to provide its nursing students hands-on experience in respite care.

According to DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter, he and his staff met with representatives of NMC sometime last

week to discuss partnering on the respite care program that will soon be a program headed by the department.

Nursing students will be given the opportunity to get hands-on experience in taking care of a senior citizen or an individual with special needs.

"There is a bill at the Legislature to place the respite care program under DCCA... to use the program to benefit nursing school students and to

see specific training for respite care providers," Hunter said.

The respite care program would provide unpaid primary caretakers (like family members or loved ones) of special needs individuals and seniors with time off for themselves to take care of personal or household errands.

"Respite care providers will either go into a home during a scheduled time and relieve the primary caretaker for a set pe-

riod or utilize the respite care facility. The respite care facility will accommodate respite care outside of the home as necessary," he said.

Respite care programs have been proven to reduce abuse, especially elder abuse, and improve the overall care of children with disabilities and senior citizens who are being cared for full-time at home. Respite care services also improve the caretaker's health.



From left, Floyd Masga, John Aldan, Rosa Tudela, Barbara Merfalen, Pam Sablan, Jack Sablan, Charlotte Cepeda, Robert Hunter, and Regina Terlaje.

February honors parents, encourages early cervical cancer detection

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The month of February has been dedicated to early detection of cervical cancer and to appreciating each parent's leadership skills.

Last week, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres proclaimed the entire month of February Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and Parent Leadership Month to urge all women to discuss the causes of cervical cancer and to discuss early prevention and treatment; and also to celebrate parents for their critical leadership in their homes.

For Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, the Commonwealth Cancer Association has scheduled events all throughout the month.

Last Friday, the association

joined TanHoldings for the annual JP Glow Run that raised proceeds that will be donated to the upcoming Marianas March Against Cancer.

On Thursday, Feb. 8, the association will host a cancer survivor's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan to discuss preventive and detective methods when it comes to cancer.

On Feb. 12, 13, 15, and 16, the association will host HPV vaccination campaigns at the Northern Marianas College from 8am to 12pm.

To end Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, the association will host a Cervical Cancer swim/bike/run with partner agencies that will start at 6am on Feb. 24. More details will be announced later.

For Parent Leadership Month, Parents Anonymous will be hosting multiple outreach programs, workshops, and parenting classes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

On Feb. 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7, Parents Anonymous will be hosting a parent outreach program at the Nutrition Assistance Program center.

Also on Feb. 1 and 8 the group will host a common sense parenting class.

On Feb. 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 20, 23, and 26, there will be a Parents Anonymous session at either the Kagman Community Center or the Division of Youth Services office.

On Feb. 9, there will be a Rota Parent Leadership Wave at Teteto Beach starting at 4pm.

On Feb. 16, there will be a Rota Parent Leadership outreach at the Sinapalo Youth Center at 6pm.

Feb. 17 the group will join the Teen Dating Violence Health Walk at the Aquaponic Park on Rota at 6am, followed by an outreach at the Canary Walkathon from 8am to 12pm.

There will also be a Parent Development Workshop from 8am to 12pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Feb. 23. The following day, Feb. 24, the same workshop will be held on Tinian at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria from 8am to 12pm.

To end the month, the group will host an outreach at the Northern Marianas College Health Fair on Feb. 24.

Chamber training on use of social media

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a training seminar called "Social Media for Business!" on Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018, from 9am to 11:30am at the Chamber's conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315).

This seminar will focus on the effective use of social media to find new customers, engage existing customers, and enhance the overall

effectiveness and success of your business. Both retail and service industries can greatly benefit from the free advertising available online.

Registration fee is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Reservations and advance payment are required. Light refreshments are included. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. (PR)

Commission reaffirms PCC accreditation

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges’ Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, at its meeting on Jan. 10-12, 2018, reaffirmed the accreditation of the Palau Community College for the remainder of the cycle.

The commission found that Palau Community College has addressed the compliance recommendations, corrected deficiencies, and met standards.

The next report from the college will be the midterm report due on March 15, 2020. The institution’s next comprehensive review will occur in the spring term of 2023.

At the January meeting, the commission reviewed the college’s follow-up report and related evidentiary materials to determine whether PCC has responded to the issues identified by the peer review team at the last visit and as expressed in the commission’s action letter of July 8, 2016, and whether the college has demonstrated compliance with standards.

The commission requires the college to disseminate the follow-up report and the commission’s letter within the institution, including by posting them on the college’s website. **(PR)**



The Western Association of Schools and Colleges’ Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, at its meeting on Jan. 10-12, 2018, reaffirmed the accreditation of the Palau Community College for the remainder of the cycle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HONORS’ LIST

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the 2nd Quarter President’s List and Honor Roll.

PRESIDENT’S LIST
Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

1st Grade:
Asai, Ryusei
Bamba, Sean Matthew
Barcinas Donray Abholmwar
Camacho, David Joseph
Dandan, Nea
Deleon Guerrero, Bella Reese
Macaranas, Nico-Lahi
Muna, Destiny Margarita
Obnimaga, Zian Michael
Rangamar, Bwilitowpi Agelu
San Nicolas, Jaze Enzo
Sasamoto, Gonshiro Pedro
Tagabuel, Donald Laurence
Takanobu, Komiko Aureen
Tenorio, Kainoa

2nd Grade:
Demapan, Isabella Soledad
Hwang, Katherine
Kim, Do Geon
Larson, Kayla
Melchor, Remiegem
Mitchell, Gabriel Seth
Niric, Dylan
Palacios, Layla Carmen
Pangelinan, Jadine Nicole
Santos, Aya
Vanzant, Jacey
Villagomez, Cecilia Ramon

3rd Grade:
Ano, Wayne Dominic
Cabrera, Risha
Camacho, Kesil Diaz
Concepcion, Jeffrey
Dela Cruz, Christopher James
Gragasin, Justin Andrei
Guerrero, Patrick
Jung, Maya Jae
Lansangan, Leah Michel
Mallari, Justin
Matsumoto, Naomi Skye
McQuay, Hope
McQuay, Maya
Melchor, Sarah Angela
Pangilinan, Nicole Angela
Propst, Kaden Christian
Quimsing, Althea Loryn
Reyes, Frank Anthony
Sasamoto, Enzo Umeki
Sasamoto, Hiromi Rosa
Sasamoto, Yukiko Kiyomi

Tengco, Angel Jireh
Tenorio, Jose Clarence
Torres, Jupri

4th Grade:
Backe, Asa Vanessa
Buenaflor, Oscar Bien
Cano, William Matthew
Dela Santa, Heleyna Frielle
Estella, Valerie Anne
Javier, Lance Jericho
Lansangan, Lexi Marie
Manning, Kai
Matsumoto, Ayanna Faith
Ogo, Therese
Pangelinan, Camron Xavier
Pangelinan, Mya
Poon, Andrick
Santiago, Gavril Myles
Tenorio, Jessiana

5th Grade:
Cabrera, Margaret
Camacho, Irie Kane
Castro, Elialyn
Castro, Kenneth
Chang, Jada
Clark, Nathaniel
Deleon Guerrero, Jada Monique
Kautz, Claire Regina
Kim, Irene
Lee, Jamie
Mallari, Audrein Jennifer
Mariano, Nicole Erin
Nicholas, Jalen
Palacios, Tricia Antonnette
Peter, Maili
Reyes, Chelsy Anne
Sablan, Kiana Cecilia
Santos, Dylan
Sasamoto, Hitomi Rosa
Steele, Lyssa Rae
Taimanao, Aryana Carmen
Tenorio, Malina Rose
Toskas, Ari James

6th Grade:
Deleon Guerrero, Ierlyma Nicole
Guerrero, Ruben Antonio
Hong, Joey
Kim, Hailey
Propst, Devin Jordan
Punzalan, Kaitlyn
Reyes, Vicente B.
Sablan, Andrew
San Nicolas, Earle Gabreil
Tesiro, Tyana Kisha
Torres, Avah Marie
Torres, Maria

7th Grade:
Cabrera, Kyla Monique
Green, Lynzey
Hunter, Brissa

Kiser, Renee
Mallari, Jill Anne Marie
Ortiz, Brent Matthew
Pangelinan, Manuel Jacinto
Peter, Kayannie
Sasamoto, Yurihana Rosa

8th Grade:
Aldave, Lynette Anne
Alvarez, Robin Kyle
Bang, Cristina
Bang, Judy
Cruz, Larry Dean
Diaz, Jeremiah Jerome
Duenas, Monique Laura
Kang, Jerica
Lacap, Hannah
Mendiola, Alleah Marie
Propst, Kiana Lei
Schweiger, Theresa Rose
Solis, Raesyl Gerard
Tenorio, Joshua Donovan
Travilla, Kaia
Yang, Jieun

9th Grade:
Averdano-Woodruff, Katherine
Ayuyu, Maria
Colombo, Daniele
Hunter, Brandee C.
Kim, Irene
Kevin, Mendozza, Mikee Mame
Poon, Skyler
Quilantang, Jeanine Arianne
Salvador, Vince Philip
San Nicolas, John Isaac
Youn, Brian
Zhu, Connie

10th Grade:
Borja, Kalea Lou
Ham, Jim Michael
Javier, Lleyton Andre
Pak, Nicole
Rabang, Katelyn
Yamagata-Santos, Danielle
Jaden

11th Grade:
Batusin, Aldwin Ray
Bobadilla, Jan Emmanuel
Castro, Rosa
Chinen, Quincylenn Mikaela
Cho, Hyo Lim
Choi, Eunseo
Han, Louisa Sa
Javillonar, Danishelle Faye
Kiser, Eric
Lee, Seo Yeon
Leong, Giselle Ivy
Macaranas, Dayna Lou
Manese, Angelo Gabriel
Moran, Matt Jason
Ocampo, Justin Gerald

Pangelinan, Rosalia Francine
Paraíso, Joanie
Ramirez, Reica Jucel
Sato, Karen
Tabora, Earl Daivick
Terlaje, Maria Lael G.

12th Grade:
Castro, Viveka Rose
Heo, Paul
Kim, Min Jung
Lee, Jae Hee (Herald)
Lim, Nathanael
Mafnas, Shana Marie
Melchor, Jeff Matthew
Mendiola, Erika Marie
Palacios, Michelle
Salas, Darian Jacob
Torres, Cassidy
Toskas, Jonelle Gwyneth
Uti, Monica
Villacrusis, Geuel Christian
Villagomez, Jehnifer Luise
Yun, Seok Jun
Zheng, Theresa

HONOR ROLL
Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.

1st Grade:
Cabrera, Isabella
Camacho, Daniel
Dela Cruz, Elijah
Mendoza, Miguel Garret
Reyes, Aiden Cassidy
Torres, Hunter
Vanzant, Jeren
Wu, Aaron

2nd Grade:
Arriola, Janessa Francine T.
Cabrera, Kimason
Camacho, Maiyah Michelle
Chen, Jennis
Devjani, Krishna
Flores, Cassidee Jolina
Ha, Ye Lynn
Inos, Gabriella
Maratita, Francisco
Pangilinan, Cyril Michael
Quitugua, Aubrey Rae
Remilloza, Andrea Fhe
Sablan, Nick Jesse
Sheu, Julius
Tagabuel, Arstin Itibwulschigh
Zhao, Sophie

3rd Grade:
Calvo, Michael
Castro, Christine Rosanne
Esguerra, Maria Loreen

Espiritu, Curt Lars Joseph
Silva, Keanu
Tomokane, Pedro Jose
Villagomez, Sage Ramon
Wesley, Aiden Manuel

4th Grade:
Arreza, Annieskha
Cabrera, Kyanna
Camacho, Meagan
Deleon Guerrero, Jasmine Meleana
Deleon Guerrero, Nyla
Ha, Ye Sol
Kim, Chae Eun
Kim, Gabin
Maratita, Elise
Mareham, Laura
Mendoza, Mikaela Paige
Mercado, Michael
Pangelinan, Joseph Brandon
Tizon, Quince Emanuele
Travilla, Riana Joy

5th Grade:
Chae, Davina
Duenas, Quimari Liwerscheng
Gozon, Rafael Mykel
Gray, Zander
Kim, Jimin
Mallari, Laizza Vianca
Matagolai, Vayden
Patawaran, Breana Ysabel
Perez Jr., Gregorio
Saures, Crispin-Joseph E.
Seong, Seol Yun
Solis, Rainer Joy
Taisacan, Nevaeh Sky
Travilla, Arturo Rodrigo

6th Grade:
Ano, Natalie Gabrielle
Atalig, L’Wina
Babauta, Franishia Jolie
Blanco, Elisa Ellen
Chen, Jeery
Dayrit, Jenarisa Mae
Deleon Guerrero, Leland Isaiah
Diaz, Keannalyn
Jung, Minki
Mafnas, Breanna Sue
Manglona, Aiyana Jade
Obnimaga, Ig Kamiya Nicole
Ogo, Christian
Sheu, Jonathan
Takayama, Lezandra Miyuki
Terlaje, Jared Joshua G.
Tolentino, Leyonne Alfred
Villegas, Miguel

7th Grade:
Albuen, Francine Monique
Baldazo, Keehara Nielsen
Borja, O’hane

Cruz, Moeisha Eleanor
Dela Cruz, Kina
Galang, Raphael Christian
Naraja, Leopoldo
Sasamoto, Derek Moritaro
Sohn, John
Torres, Kristan Rose

8th Grade:
Ano, William Nathaniel
Bucalig, Fiona Marielle
Cabrera, Meleena
Cho, Su Bin Novelene
Chong, Kevin Daisuke
Combinido, Jewel
Cruzana, Daphne Rylee
Guerrero, Christian Felix
Guerrero, Izabela Kay
Kim, Hyun Jun
Lee, Ahjeong
Mafnas, Christopher Adam
Mallari, Vaughn Andrei
Matsuoka, Mirae
Morales, Ariel
Muna, Devon Tyler
Olouachel, Chelsea
Sheu, Jeffrey
Steele, Richard Ramon
Tenorio, Mariana

9th Grade:
Cepeda, Sinahi Ray
Cunanan, Nathanael Ryne
Gatmaitan, Xavier
Palacios-Camacho, Puti’on
Perez, Carmille Jade
Sablan, Penelope
Tomboc, Reuben Christian

10th Grade:
Alcantara, Princess Luisa
Buenaventura, Riley Anne
Cayetano, Tomjayson
Chua, Jeffrey
Millo, Jan Matthew
Palacios, Alvin

11th Grade:
Acosta, Ydylle Faye
Bae, Seung Bin
Bautista, Kyle Christopher
Camacho, Gary Dallas
Cunanan, Erika Gabrielle
Factor, Angelo
Jang, Eric
Jun, Angela

12th Grade:
Cabanting, Amy Rose
Chi, Seung Uk (Aiden)
Flores, Quina
Kim, Heechan
Kim, Taeyeon
Takayama, Miki

USCIS to take action to address asylum backlog

WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will schedule asylum interviews for recent applications ahead of older filings, in an attempt to stem the growth of the agency’s asylum backlog.

USCIS is responsible for overseeing the nation’s legal immigration system, which includes adjudicating asylum claims. The agency currently faces a crisis-level backlog of 311,000 pending asylum cases as of Jan. 21, 2018, making the asylum system increasingly vulnerable to fraud and abuse. This backlog has grown by more than 1750 percent over the last five years, and the rate of new asylum applications has more than tripled.

To address this problem, USCIS will follow these priorities when scheduling affirmative asylum interviews:

1. Applications that were scheduled for an interview, but the interview had to be re-scheduled at the applicant’s request or the needs of USCIS;
2. Applications pending 21 days or less since filing; and
3. All other pending applications, starting with newer filings and working back toward older filings.

Additionally, the Affirmative Asylum Bulletin issued by USCIS has been discontinued. “Delays in the timely processing of asylum applications are detrimental to legitimate asylum seekers,” said USCIS director L. Francis Cissna. “Lingering backlogs can be exploited and used to undermine national security and the integrity of the asylum system.”

This priority approach, first established by the asylum reforms of 1995 and used for 20 years until 2014, seeks to deter those who might try to use the existing backlog as a means to obtain employment authorization. Returning to a “last in, first out” interview schedule will allow USCIS to identify frivolous, fraudulent or otherwise non-meritorious asylum claims earlier and place those individuals into removal proceedings.

For details on how we will schedule interviews, go to our Affirmative Asylum Interview Scheduling page. **(USCIS)**

Business

Tillerson says US considers Venezuela oil sale restrictions

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Sunday that the U.S. is still considering restricting the sale of oil from crisis-torn Venezuela.

Tillerson said in Argentina's capital that the U.S. wants "free, fair, and verifiable elections" in Venezuela, and wants to apply enough pressure to end the crisis in the South American country. The government there has faced widespread criticism over its decision to push up presidential elections under conditions that opponents say overwhelmingly favor President Nicolas Maduro.

But Tillerson also said that he wants to find ways to mitigate the negative effect sanctions would have on U.S. oil companies, Venezuelans and other regional countries that rely on Venezuelan oil.

"The situation is becoming quite dire in Venezuela, so one



AP
U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, left, and Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie shake hands after giving joint news conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018.

of us in the region want to see Venezuela return to its constitution," said Tillerson, who is on a six-day trip to Argentina, Colombia, Panama, Peru, Mexico and Jamaica.

Venezuela's pro-government constitutional assembly last month ordered the presidential election to be held by the end of April—months ahead of when the country's presidential voting has traditionally taken place.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Tillerson, Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie said that Argentina does not recognize "the political process and authoritarian deviation of Venezuela," nor the assembly. He also said Argentina is against the restrictions on freedoms and bans imposed on opposition leaders under Maduro's government.

"We're always closely following the situation in Venezuela, which has now drifted toward a health and humanitarian crisis of extraordinary proportions," Faurie said.

Tillerson and Faurie also said that they had agreed to work together to stop the Lebanon-based militant group Hezbollah from raising money in Argentina and other countries of Latin America.

of the aspects of considering sanctioning oil is what effect would it have on the Venezuelan people, and is it a step that might bring this to an end, to a more rapid end," Tillerson said. "Not doing anything to bring this to an end is also asking the Venezuelan people to suffer for a much longer time."

Venezuela sits atop the world's largest oil reserves and is the third-largest supplier to the U.S. The U.S. oil industry says that a ban on petroleum imports from Venezuela would hurt U.S. jobs and drive up gasoline costs.

But such sanctions also pose a great threat to Maduro. For all of his anti-capitalist rhetoric, Venezuela remains highly dependent on U.S. oil exports, especially for importing food and medicine, which are in short supply as crude prices have plunged and spiraling inflation erodes its economy.

"This is under study, it's under consideration," Tillerson said about the potential sanctions.

"We've had exchanges in Mexico City, we've had exchanges today about it, and I think the point being that all

Sharpen interview skills to overcome impression of shyness

Q: At the end of a recent interview, the manager told me that I would not be getting the job. He said I wasn't a good fit for the position because I was shy. As a naturally introverted person, I found this very discouraging. How can I avoid similar problems in the future?

A: If this manager based his conclusion on observations, perhaps interview anxiety hampered your ability to project your personality or answer questions fluently. In that case, the solution is to sharpen your interview skills. Ask a friend with hiring experience to provide some structured practice, followed by honest feedback and helpful coaching.

But if you voluntarily labeled yourself as shy, you should either avoid that description or neutralize it with a positive twist. For example, if shyness is your standard response to the inevitable question about weaknesses, you can improve your answer with examples showing how you successfully overcame your natural reticence.

It might also help to understand the difference between shyness and introversion. For introverts, extended interaction is physically tiring, so they tend to limit the time they spend with others. Shy folks, on the other hand, become anxious in social situations and often withdraw or shut down. While it's possible to be both shy and introverted, the two are not synonymous.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



Finally, to find a job which suits your personality, you must carefully select your search targets. A sales position requiring constant interaction, for example, would not appeal to anyone who is either introverted or shy. So if this lost opportunity involved extensive interpersonal contact, perhaps you should be thankful that you were screened out.

Q: In my job as a social worker, I provide services to clients based on complicated and ever-changing policies. Although we have policy specialists who are supposed to help us interpret these guidelines, they never seem to be available. They are always in meetings or helping to train new employees.

Policy interpretation is important not only for providing services, but also because we are rated on these decisions during performance reviews. Although I have repeatedly asked for assistance on complex cases, my supervisor has been no help at all. Should I complain about this to higher management?

A: Instead of presenting complaints, try proposing possible solutions. While the former might get you branded as a whiner, the latter could make you appear helpful and innovative.

Assuming that other social workers share your frustration, start by gathering a group to brainstorm strategies for solving this problem. Collective action will not only produce more ideas, but also increase the impact when you present proposals to management.

Identify the most confusing or difficult policy areas, then prepare a summary of questions which need to be answered. Present this list to an appropriate manager and suggest a meeting to discuss how these policies should be applied.

To address issues as they arise, you might also recommend a monthly case review session to be led by one of the specialists. The obvious selling point for these proposals is that group discussions will not only save time, but also increase consistency. Anyone in management should be able to appreciate that combination.

A raucous Google-Uber fight is finally heading to trial

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)A Google-bred pioneer in self-driving cars and Uber's beleaguered ride-hailing service are colliding in a courtroom showdown revolving around allegations of deceit, betrayal, espionage and a high-tech heist that tore apart one-time allies.

The trial opening Monday in San Francisco federal court comes nearly a year after Google spin-off Waymo sued Uber, accusing it of ripping off key pieces of its self-driving car technology in 2016. Uber paid \$680 million for a startup run by Anthony Levandowski, one of the top engineers in a robotic vehicle project that Google began in 2009 and later spun out into Waymo.

Google was also an early investor in Uber, a relationship that later soured. Its parent company Alphabet also owns Waymo.

Waymo has drawn a sordid picture, contending that Levandowski heisted thou-

sands of documents containing Google trade secrets before defecting to Uber. Waymo says Levandowski conspired with former Uber CEO Travis Kalanick to use the purloined technology in Uber's own fleet of self-driving cars.

Uber has vehemently denied the allegations in the civil case, which has also triggered a criminal investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice. It's not clear whether that probe is focused on Uber or Levandowski, who has consistently exercised his right against self-incrimination and is expected to do so again if called to testify during the trial.

Levandowski's refusal to relinquish his Fifth Amendment rights eventually led Uber to fire him last May, even though he had developed a close relationship with Kalanick.

The stakes in the trial are huge. Waymo is demanding damages that its expert estimated at nearly \$2 billion. It

also wants a court order that would prevent Uber from using any of the technology that it says was stolen, a move that could hobble the ride-hailing service's push to design self-driving cars.

"This is the biggest case in the history of Uber," William Carmody, a Uber lawyer, said during a pre-trial hearing last week.

The courtroom drama will feature an intriguing cast of characters. The list of expected witnesses includes both the combative Kalanick and Silicon Valley venture capitalist Bill Gurley, an early Uber backer who later helped engineer Kalanick's departure as Uber's CEO. (Kalanick resigned under pressure last June.)

Two of the world's richest people, Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, also may testify about the importance of Waymo's self-driving project and Levandowski's role in it.

Nation

Amtrak crash in S. Carolina leaves 2 dead, over 100 hurt

CAYCE, S.C. (AP)—An Amtrak passenger train slammed into a parked freight train in the early-morning darkness Sunday after a thrown switch sent it hurtling down a side track, authorities said. Two Amtrak crew members were killed, and more than 100 people were injured.

It was the third deadly wreck involving Amtrak in less than two months.

The Silver Star, en route from New York to Miami with nearly 150 people aboard, was going an estimated 59 mph when it struck the empty CSX train around 2:45 a.m., Gov. Henry McMaster said.

The crash happened near a switchyard about 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of Columbia where railcars hauling automobiles are loaded and unloaded.

Many of the passengers were asleep when the crash jolted them awake and forced them into the cold.

"I thought that I was dead," said passenger Eric Larkin, of Pamlico County, North Carolina, who was dazed and limping after banging his knee.

Larkin said he was on his way to Florida when he was awoken by the crash. The train was shaking and jumping, and his seat broke loose, slamming him into the row in front of him, he said. He heard screams and crying all around him as he tried to get out. Other passengers were bleeding.

Robert Sumwalt, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said investigators found a track switch had been set in a position that forced the Amtrak train off the main track and onto the siding.

He said the question for investigators is why that happened.

Amtrak President Richard Anderson pointed the finger at CSX, saying the signal system



AP
An aerial view of the site of an early morning train crash Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018 between an Amtrak train, bottom right, and a CSX freight train, top left, in Cayce, SC.

the rest treated for minor injuries such as cuts, bruises and whiplash, authorities said.

Palmetto Health emergency room doctor Eric Brown said so many passengers were hurt that they were brought in on two buses, and a tent that had been set up as a waiting room to keep people separate from flu patients was turned into a triage area.

The locomotives of both trains were left crumpled, the Amtrak engine on its side. One car in the middle of the Amtrak train was snapped in half, forming a V off to one side of the tracks.

"It's a horrible thing to see, to understand the force involved," the governor said after touring the scene.

Investigators recovered a camera from the front of the Amtrak train and were looking for the data recorders from the two trains.

The switch that triggered the crash was found padlocked in position, which conductors are supposed to do when they move a train from one line to another, Sumwalt said.

Amtrak officials gathered up luggage and other belongings and within hours put passengers aboard buses to their destinations.

Before being sent on their way, those who were not hurt were taken to a shelter set up at a middle school, and local businesses provided coffee and breakfast.

The dead were identified as engineer Michael Kempf, 54, of Savannah, Georgia, and conductor Michael Cella, 36, of Orange Park, Florida.

along that stretch is run by the freight railroad but was down at the time of the wreck, forcing CSX dispatchers to route trains manually. The NTSB said it was working to confirm that.

CSX issued a statement ex-

pressing condolences but said nothing about the cause of the accident.

Sumwalt said that positive train control—a GPS-based safety system that can automatically slow or stop trains—could

have prevented the accident.

"That's what it's designed to do," he said, referring to technology that regulators have been pressing for for decades with mixed success.

The conductor and engineer

aboard the Amtrak locomotive were killed. And 116 people were taken to four hospitals, according to the governor.

At least three patients were hospitalized in critical or serious condition, with nearly all

US investigators say deadly Amtrak train crash preventable

CAYCE, S.C. (AP)—Federal investigators are trying to figure out why a switch was in the wrong position, sending an Amtrak train into a freight train and killing a conductor and an engineer in South Carolina.

But they already know what could have prevented the wreck that injured more than 100 passengers—a GPS-based system called "positive train control" that knows the location of all trains and the positions of all switches in an area to prevent the kind of

human error that can put two trains on the same track.

"It could have avoided this accident. That's what it's designed to do," said National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Robert Sumwalt, referring to technology that regulators have been demanding for decades with mixed success.

He said the passenger train hurtled down a side track near Cayce (CAYsee) around 2:45 a.m. Sunday after a stop 10 miles (16 kilometers) north in Co-

lumbia because a switch was locked in place, diverting it from the main line. A crew on the freight train had moved the switch to drive it from one side track - where it unloaded 34 train cars of automobiles—to the side track where it was parked. The switch was padlocked as it was supposed to be, Sumwalt said.

The system that operates the train signals in the area was down, so CSX Corp.—the freight railroad operator which runs that stretch of

track—was manually operating the signals. Sumwalt said it was too early to know if the signal was red to warn the Amtrak crew that the switch was not set to continue along the main train line.

Just hours after Sunday's crash, which also sent 116 of the 147 people on board the New York-to-Miami train to the hospital, Amtrak President Robert Anderson said there must be no more delays from the federal government in installing the safety system by the end of 2018.

Survey: Most residents in struggling US areas respect police

WASHINGTON (AP)—A majority of Americans living in struggling communities say they have respect for and confidence in the police who patrol their neighborhoods, according to a survey released Sunday.

More than 7 in 10 Americans who live in these communities said they have some or a lot of confidence in the police who patrol their neighborhoods, according to the State of Opportunity in America survey. The numbers go up even higher when asked about respect for the police:

86 percent of people in struggling neighborhoods said they had some or a lot of respect for their local police.

The survey looks at the relationship between police and "fragile" communities, described as locations with high proportions of people struggling in their daily lives who also have limited opportunities for social mobility.

Those same neighborhoods used to be called disadvantaged and at-risk, noted Gerard Robinson, executive director of the Center for Advancing Opportunity. The term "frag-

ile" is a better descriptor, Robinson said.

"You're not so much talking about a person or a people, but a situation," Robinson said.

The survey, conducted from May to August 2017, was mailed to 28,000 people in both urban and rural areas of the United States to get 6,000 completed surveys.

There were racial and ethnic differences on the police question for residents of these struggling communities.

Almost 2 in 5 of black residents of fragile neighborhoods—39 percent—said they

had little to no confidence in police, which is higher than the 26 percent of Hispanic residents and 21 percent of white residents. The same differences can be seen for respect for the police, where 19 percent of blacks said they had little or no respect for the police, compared with 11 percent of whites and 9 percent of Hispanics.

Despite the respect and confidence for police, vast majorities of residents of struggling communities say they would rather see money spent on social and economic problems that lead to crime rather than

spending more money on law enforcement. The survey found 84 percent of those asked said they want more money spent on better education and job training rather than on improving law enforcement by increasing the number of prisons, police and judges.

This is despite crime continuing to be a problem in these neighborhoods. Just about half the people in the survey conducted by Gallup, the Center for Advancing Opportunity and the Charles Koch Foundation—51 percent—say they see crime increasing in their

neighborhoods. By comparison, only 40 percent of Americans nationwide said there was more crime in America in October 2017 than there was the year before.

About six out of 10 people in fragile neighborhoods say they would like to relocate if they had the opportunity, and crime was the most commonly cited reason.

"One of the great things about this report is that it broadens the narrative of what people in fragile communities think about the police," Robinson said.

Asia

Seoul: N. Korea to send nominal head of state to S. Korea

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP)—North Korea will send its nominal head of state and other senior officials to South Korea this week, Seoul officials said Sunday, as the rivals push through with rare rapprochement steps ahead of this month's Winter Olympics in the South.

Kim Yong Nam, the head of the North's parliament, will be the highest-level North Korean official to visit South Korea since the North sent then-No. 2 Hwang Pyong So at the close of the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea. Kim's trip touched off immediate media speculation that direct contacts between Pyongyang and Washington may be possible during the Olympics, with the U.S. sending Vice President Mike Pence to the games that start on Feb. 9.

On Sunday night, the North sent a message via a cross-border communication channel saying its high-level delegation will visit South Korea from Feb. 9-11, the South's Unification Ministry said in a



AP
Japan speed skaters practice at the Gangneung Oval during a training session prior to the 2018 Winter Olympics in Gangneung, South Korea, Monday, Feb. 5, 2018.

statement. It said the North's delegation includes Kim and three other officials but gave no further details like its itinerary.

Kim chairs the top decision-making body of North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament, and his official title as president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly made him the North's nominal or cer-

emonial leader. Kim, 90, has been frequently seen on state TV making propaganda-filled speeches with deep, booming voices on key state anniversaries or receiving visiting foreign dignitaries on behalf

of leader Kim Jong Un and his late dictator father Kim Jong Il. Some experts say Kim Yong Nam's actual influence in state affairs has been diminished gradually over the years largely due to his age.

The North dispatching a high-level delegation was part of agreements the two Koreas struck last month over Olympic cooperation. Under the deals, the North is sending 22 athletes to the Pyeongchang games, who will parade together with South Korean players under a single flag during the Feb. 9 opening ceremony. Twelve of the North Korean athletes have formed the Koreas' first Olympic team in women's hockey, and the North is also to send a 230-member cheering group and a 140-person art troupe.

The Koreas' reconciliation mood follows a year of heightened tensions over North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile programs. Some experts say the North may want to use its Olympic-related overture as a way to weaken U.S.-led international pressure and sanctions.

China criticizes US for its nuclear adversary claims

BEIJING (AP)—China on Sunday criticized a U.S. government report that cast Beijing as a potential nuclear adversary and called on Washington to reduce its own much larger arsenal and join in promoting regional stability.

A Defense Ministry statement said China's nuclear arsenal is the "minimum level" required for security. It pledged never to be the first to use nuclear weapons "under any circumstances."

The sweeping U.S. nuclear strategy review issued Friday said Washington wants to prevent Beijing from mistakenly concluding that any use of nuclear weapons, however limited, is acceptable.

"The Chinese side expresses firm opposition" to the report, said a ministry spokesman, Ren Guoqiang.

"We hope the U.S. will abandon a Cold War mentality and earnestly shoulder its special and prior responsibility for its own nuclear disarmament," said Ren.

The ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, has the world's fifth-largest nuclear arsenal, with 300 warheads, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The United States

and Russia each have about 7,000 warheads, or about 20 times as many as Beijing.

Beijing has rattled Japan, South Korea and Southeast Asian governments with increasingly assertive gestures and belligerent comments aimed at enforcing its claims to disputed islands and swathes of ocean.

In December, China sent bombers and fighter planes to fly around Taiwan, the self-ruled island the communist mainland claims as its territory. The warplanes flew near South Korean and Japanese air space, prompting Japan to dispatch fighter jets to intercept them.

The Defense Ministry statement said global peace and development "are irreversible trends" and called on Washington to work with Beijing to "jointly safeguard peace, stability and prosperity in this region and the world."

President Donald Trump's nuclear doctrine breaks with his predecessor, Barack Obama, by ending a push to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. military policy.

In a written statement, Trump on Friday said U.S. strategy is designed to make use of nuclear weapons less likely. But arms control group criticized it as reckless.

ASIAN BRIEFS

UN: Rohingya crisis could endanger regional security

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The U.N.'s human rights chief has warned that Myanmar's persecution of the Rohingya Muslim minority has the potential to spark regional conflict. Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini reiterated while in Indonesia on Monday that acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing may have occurred in the campaign of violence against Rohingya that sparked an exodus of nearly 1 million people to neighboring Bangladesh. "Myanmar faces a very serious crisis with a potentially severe impact on the security of the region," Zeid said in a speech to a rights conference at Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "It is sometimes said that today's human rights violations will become tomorrow's conflicts," he said. "If the Rohingya crisis were to spark a broader conflict based on religious identities, the ensuing disputes could be a cause for great alarm." Zeid said the spasms of violence that began in August and sparked the refugee crisis were the culmination of five decades of discrimination and violence against Rohingya in Myanmar's Rakhine state. The government of predomi-

nantly Buddhist Myanmar denies any atrocities have taken place and insists Rohingya are illegal immigrants.

Maldives attorney general says court can't oust president

MALE, Maldives (AP)—The Maldives' attorney general warned the country's Supreme Court on Sunday that a move to unseat the president would be unconstitutional, amid a political crisis that has left the government in chaos since late last week. Attorney General Mohamed Anil said at a news conference that he had heard "rumors that the Supreme Court is going to order the impeachment" of President Yameen Abdul Gayoom. He said that the president can be ousted only through a vote in parliament, and that police and security forces would not obey an impeachment order from an "illegitimate set of people." Mohammed Nasheed, the Indian Ocean archipelago's exiled former president and Yameen's main rival, responded angrily on Twitter, saying that comments were "tantamount to a coup." "Security services must uphold the constitution and serve the Maldivian people," Nasheed tweeted. Under Maldivian law, a vote for impeachment re-

moves a president from office.

Strong earthquake strikes off Taiwan's east coast

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A strong and shallow earthquake struck off Taiwan's east coast on Sunday night, but there were no immediate reports of any injuries or damage. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude-6.1 quake's epicenter was 14 kilometers (9 miles) northeast of the city of Hualien, at a depth of just 7.8 kilometers (4.9 miles). Shallow quakes tend to cause more damage than deeper ones. Taiwan's Central News Agency said the island's earthquake monitoring agency registered seven tremors around that time, with the strongest recorded at a magnitude of 5.8 and a depth of 16 kilometers (10 miles). Earthquakes frequently rattle Taiwan, but most are minor and cause little or no damage. However, a magnitude-7.6 quake in central Taiwan in 1999 killed more than 2,300 people. In 2016, a shallow earthquake in southern Taiwan killed at least two dozen people.

Senior US diplomat pitches arms sales in China's backyard

BEIJING (AP)—The United States has dispatched its

top diplomat overseeing arms sales to promote American weaponry at the largest air show in Asia, where China's military footprint and political influence are surging. Ambassador Tina Kaidanow told reporters that a large U.S. delegation at the Singapore Air Show is doing "everything we can" to encourage Southeast Asian governments to purchase U.S.-made arms like the F-35 fighter jet. Washington has been seeking to woo countries like Vietnam, a former foe, with arms sales and transfers at a time when China has bolstered its territorial claims in the South China Sea with construction on man-made islands. Kaidanow said the transfer last year of a coast guard cutter to Vietnam, which often contests China's maritime claims, was an "incredible positive." "They will be able to use our equipment for maritime domain awareness, for maritime security ... that's important for them," said Kaidanow, who visited Hanoi last week shortly after U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, on a visit to Vietnam, announced plans to send an aircraft carrier to the country in a show of solidarity.

World

Greeks rally in Athens to protest use of the name Macedonia

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Well over 100,000 protesters from across Greece converged Sunday on Athens' main square to protest a potential Greek compromise in a dispute with neighboring Macedonia over the former Yugoslav republic's official name.

Hundreds of chartered buses brought protesters in from around the country to the Greek capital, while more people arrived on ferries from the islands. Traffic was blocked throughout the city center and three major subway stops were closed.

Chanting "Hands off Macedonia!" and "Macedonia belongs to Greece!" the protesters converged on Syntagma Square in front of parliament, many waving flags bearing the Star of Vergina, the emblem of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia.

Police officials estimated the attendance at 140,000. Organizers, who claimed 1.5 million were at the rally, used a crane to raise a massive Greek flag over the square.

"We are trying to show the politicians ... that they must not give up the name 'Macedonia,'" said 55-year-old protester Manos Georgiou.

In Skopje, a spokesman for the Macedonian government said he didn't know whether his government would react to the rally. Macedonian opposi-



Protesters gather at the Athens' main Syntagma square in front of the Greek Parliament during a rally in Athens, Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018. AP

tion leader Hristijan Mickoski said in a TV interview that the rally hurt the prospects of a deal on the name issue.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras was dismissive of the event.

"The overwhelming ma-

jority of the Greek people... irrespective of their opinions (on the issue) agree that major foreign policy issues cannot be solved through fanaticism and intolerance," he said in a statement.

Tsipras used the occasion to

attack Greek opposition leader Kyriakos Mitsotakis and his fellow conservative, former Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, for allegedly trying to use Sunday's rally for their advantage and to paper over their own differ-

ing approaches.

About 700 left-wing and anarchist protesters set up a counter-demonstration nearby, bearing banners calling for Balkan unity. "Macedonia belongs to its bears" read one banner.

Dozens of riot police were deployed to keep the two demonstrations separate.

Suspected far-right supporters attempted to attack the counter-demonstration, but were prevented by police who used stun grenades and tear gas to hold them back. The far-right side responded by throwing rocks at police.

There were also reports alleging that anarchists attacked a biker carrying a Greek flag and a person wearing a T-shirt commemorating the participation of Greek mercenaries in the massacres of Muslim civilians in Bosnia during the 1990s.

The name dispute broke out after Macedonia gained independence from Yugoslavia in 1991.

The country is recognized by international institutions as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, even though about 130 countries refer to it simply as Macedonia. Many Greeks refer to it by the name of its capital, Skopje.

Greece argues use of the name implies territorial claims on its own province of Macedonia, home of one of the most famous ancient Greeks, Alexander the Great.

Officials in Skopje counter that their country has been known as Macedonia for a long time.

Outside Yemen's rebel-held capital, stalemated war rages on

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SANAA, Yemen (AP)—In the rocky highlands outside of Yemen's rebel-held capital, it quickly becomes clear how the Arab world's poorest country remains mired in a stalemated civil war.

Soldiers and militiamen loyal to Yemen's internationally recognized government describe having a tantalizing view on a clear day of Sanaa's international airport from the moonscape mountains. The price is a steady barrage of incoming fire on the exposed hillside from Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, that makes any further advance treacherous, even with the aid of Saudi-led airstrikes.

The nearly three-year civil war, pitting the Saudi-led coalition against the rebels, has killed more than 10,000 people, displaced 2 million and helped spawn a devastating cholera epidemic—and yet the front lines have hardly moved.

"In mountainous areas like this it's difficult. The American Army struggled with that in Afghanistan," Yemeni Maj.

Gen. Nasser Ali al-Daibany told Associated Press reporters who were granted access to the front lines on a tour organized by the Saudi-led coalition. "But for us this won't slow us down ... because our boys, our fighters, were trained in these mountains, so they are the sons of this area."

The comparison to Afghanistan, where the U.S. war is now 16 years old, feels apt.

Yemen has also seen decades of conflict, first with the 1960s civil war that ended North Yemen's monarchy. Fighting between Marxist South Yemen and the north followed. Yemen unified in 1990, but resentment persisted under 22 years of kleptocratic rule by Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Yemen's 2011 Arab Spring protests ultimately forced Saleh to resign, but he continued to wield power behind the scenes and maintained the loyalty of many armed forces commanders. In 2014 he formed an alliance with the Houthis—who he had gone to war with in the past—and helped them capture the

capital, Sanaa.

Saudi Arabia entered the conflict the following year, at the head of an Arab coalition heavily supported by the United Arab Emirates. They have sought to restore the internationally recognized government, led by President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who is based in Saudi Arabia and whose rule is largely confined to the southern port city of Aden.

Riyadh views the Houthis as an Iranian proxy, and both Saudi Arabia and the United States say Tehran has provided the long-range missiles the rebels have fired into the kingdom. While Tehran supports the Houthis, it denies arming them.

The Saudi-led coalition has waged a devastating air campaign, repeatedly striking markets, medical facilities and civilian targets. The U.N. has attributed over half of reported child civilian casualties in the conflict to the coalition, and calls Yemen the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

Hitler book, supremacist flag found in Italy suspect's home

MILAN (AP)—A right-wing extremist suspected of shooting six Africans in central Italy was "lucid and determined, aware of what he had done" and exhibited no remorse, an Italian law enforcement official said Sunday.

Luca Traini, 28, remained jailed as police investigated him on multiple counts of attempted murder with the aggravating circumstance of "racial hatred" for the Saturday attacks in the Italian city of Macerata.

The five men and one woman wounded in the two-hour drive-by shooting spree are from Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia and Mali, according to RAI state television.

Italian authorities said they seized Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf," other publications linked to Nazism and a flag with a Celtic cross, a symbol commonly used by white supremacists, from Traini's home Sunday.

The suspect was an unsuccessful candidate last year in a local election for the anti-migrant Northern League political party. Italy's ANSA news

agency quoted acquaintances saying he previously had ties with the neo-fascist Forza Nuova and CasaPound parties.

Photographs released by police showed Traini with a neo-Nazi tattoo prominently on his forehead and an Italian flag tied around his neck.

Col. Michele Roberti, the Carabinieri commander in Macerata, told Sky TG24 that Traini demonstrated no remorse for the two-hour rampage and "it's likely that he carried out this crazy gesture as a sort of retaliation, a sort of vendetta" for the gruesome slaying of a teenager a few days earlier.

A Nigerian man has been arrested in the death of Pamela Mastropietro, 18. Her remains were found in two suitcases days after she walked away from a drug rehab community.

Police said her bloody clothes, a receipt from a pharmacy where she bought a syringe, and knives consistent with the crime were found in the Nigerian suspect's apartment. Roberti ruled out any personal connection between Traini and the slain woman.

The woman wounded in the shooting spree, a 29-year-old identified only as Jennifer, told La Stampa from her hospital bed that she no longer feels free to walk around the city "with peace of mind."

"I never hurt anyone. I was talking and laughing with three other people" when she was struck by the bullet, she told the Turin-based newspaper.

One of the six victims was released Saturday. The remaining patients were all stable, with one in intensive care and Jennifer facing surgery on her shoulder, doctors said Sunday.

Her boyfriend told La Repubblica they were waiting at a bus station when he saw a man pointing something at them from a black car. He realized then that it was a gun.

"I gave Jennifer a push to get her out of the way and threw myself down. And I heard a shot: Boom!" said Ogie Igbinowania.

Jennifer told the newspaper she arrived in Italy seven months ago and joined her boyfriend in Macerata.

Overdrive

A new Rogue Sport joined the expanding Nissan SUV lineup for 2017, sharing design, utility and technology with the slightly larger Rogue, Nissan's best-selling vehicle in the United States.

The five-passenger Sport is, of course, sportier—with a lower profile and sleeker looks—and has more room than a compact sedan, with maneuverability, a fun-to-drive feel and affordability that younger, urban buyers are looking for. The third-row seat from the regular Rogue is not available.

Three models are offered: the very basic S, midlevel SV, and well-equipped SL—priced from \$21,420-\$26,070 for front-wheel drive models. Intuitive all-wheel drive adds \$1,350.

All models are equipped with a 141-horsepower 2.0-liter inline four-cylinder engine, Xtronic CVT with manual-shift mode and Eco Mode switch, and four-wheel independent suspension. Manual shifting is located on the shifter, with position (1 through 7) indicated in the instrument panel meter.

Eco Mode is operated using a switch or the navigation screen, and helps improve fuel efficiency, correcting excessive acceleration when starting from a standstill. If sudden acceleration is necessary in an emergency situation, the computer accesses the pressure on the accelerator and allows proper acceleration.

Standard equipment includes Electric Power-assisted Steering with Sport mode (sharper steering response), Vehicle Dynamic Control with Traction Control, and four-wheel antilock disc brakes. Dynamic control helps control oversteer or understeer for more confidence in turns by reducing engine speed and/or applying brake pressure to specific wheels, while traction control reduces throttle in the event of front wheel slippage or spin to help regain grip and maintain control.

Active Trace Control helps keep the vehicle on its intended track around sharp curves, for even more confidence. Active Engine Braking smoothly adds small amounts of engine braking when the driver depresses the brake pedal, for more-comfortable braking. Active Ride Control moderates fore-aft pitching of the vehicle over bumps in the road by controlling the engine and brakes, for a smoother ride. Hill Start Assist is also standard.

Rogue Sport's exterior wears Nissan's familiar "emotional geometry" design, from the swooping front end with the dynamic V-motion grille flanked by signature boomerang headlights with LED Daytime Running Lights, purposeful creases along the sides, the pronounced rise at the back of the beltline, ending in a wide rear body appearance with long, sleek boomerang LED taillights and integrated roof spoiler.

Lines from the V-motion grille extend up to and across the hood to the "A" pillars. The kick-up waistline em-



2018 Nissan Rogue Sport.
TNS

Nissan adds smaller Rogue Sport model to crossover lineup, starting at \$21,420

By EMMA JAYNE WILLIAMS
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

phasizes the floating roof appearance.

Round fog lights designed to create a low, wide projection are integrated into the outer edge of the body-color front bumper.

Rogue Sport greets passengers with proximity approach lighting. Black lower body cladding and wheel arches are standard. Body-color outside mirrors have integrated turn signals.

Variable intermittent front windshield wipers and rear window wipers with reverse interlocking are also standard. Reverse interlocking means the wiper activates automatically when the vehicle is backing up.

Ten exterior colors are available including bold Monarch Orange (\$395) and Nitro Lime, elegant Pearl White (\$395), rugged Gun Metallic, and delicious Mocha Almond. Interiors are available in Charcoal or Light Gray cloth or leather.

For this review I drove an eye-catching Nitro Lime (Yoda green) top-of-the-line SL with front-wheel drive, riding on 19-inch aluminum-alloy wheels with silver-painted fronts and gray pockets emphasizing

five stylized "V" spokes. The interior was Charcoal featuring Piano Black finishers with chrome accents on the door panels, dash, center stack, and shifter knob/surround.

My tester was well equipped with automatic headlights, heated mirrors, remote start with Intelligent Climate Control, hands-free lift-gate, heated leather-wrapped steering wheel, leather upholstery, Quick Comfort heated front seats, universal garage/gate opener, Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection, Siri Eyes Free iPhone control, and roof rails.

The Around View Monitor with Moving Object Detection made parallel parking much easier and more precise with a bird's-eye-view of my Rogue Sport, giving a visual and audible alert for a small dog passing behind.

An SL Premium Package (\$2,280) brought a power sliding moon roof with sliding shade, LED low- and high-beam projector headlights with LED accents, High Beam Assist, Blind Spot Warning, and Rear Cross-

Traffic Alert. Forward Emergency Braking is normally included in the Premium Package. A Platinum Package (\$570) replaced it with Forward Emergency Braking with pedestrian detection, along with Intelligent Cruise Control and Lane Departure Warning and Prevention.

The interior was attractive, with Nissan's "Gliding Wing" design philosophy featured on the dash. The dash curved up and away from the center console, giving the impression of extended wings.

A six-way power-adjustable driver's seat with power lumbar support, and four-way manual front passenger's seat were supportive and comfortable, with 38.8 inches of headroom and 42.8 inches of legroom. Rear outboard passengers had 33.4 inches of legroom, with the middle a little less due to the console and mid-floor tunnel.

Dual-zone automatic temperature control had an in-cabin micro filter, and rear passengers had air conditioning vents.

Rear seatbacks folded 60/40,

making room for a trip to the thrift store with several boxes and larger items for donation. With the seats upright, cargo capacity was 20 cubic feet; there is up to 61.1 cubic feet with the seats down.

A standard Divide-N-Hide Cargo System is an adjustable floor with two removable floor boards and slots for repositioning to create shelves/dividers. With the floor in normal position, cargo capacity was 53 cubic feet. A cargo cover is standard, as well as four luggage hooks on the floor and two on the sides.

Rogue Sport doesn't skimp on technology, with many of the same features as the larger Rogue. My tester had standard RearView Monitor; NissanConnect with Navigation, Mobile Apps, and Services; SiriusXM radio, Travel Link and Traffic; Voice Recognition for navi and audio; 7.0-inch color touch-screen display; Bluetooth Hands-free Phone System, Hands-free Text Messaging Assistant, and streaming audio; USB connection port, 12-volt DC power outlet and steering-wheel-mounted controls for audio and Bluetooth.

NissanConnect Services offers three package options, with a number of digital alerts and remote access for personal security, convenience, and confidence. With the touch of a button or automatically, response specialists are available in emergency situations. Curfew, speed and boundary alerts help keep an eye on young drivers. Remote lock, vehicle locator, and remote start with climate control are added conveniences with NissanConnect Services.

SiriusXM Traffic provides flow, accident locations, road construction, and more, while Travel Link brings weather, fuel prices, sports scores, and more. Services include finding nearby destinations and route guidance.

The Advanced Air Bag System with occupant-classification adjusts the inflation rate of the front air bags depending on crash severity and seat-belt usage. Front seat-mounted and full-length roof-mounted curtain air bags with rollover sensors are standard. A LATCH system allows compatible child restraints to be secured in the second row without using a seatbelt or locking clip.

Rogue Sport construction includes several safety measures such as hood buckling creases and safety stops, rear crumple zones, energy-absorbing steering column, slide-away brake pedal assembly, and pipe-style steel side door-guard beams.

This impressive roster of safety equipment and technologies is rare in the segment, helping the Rogue Sport to stand out.

Rogue Sport was fun to drive, comfortable with lots of space and well-cushioned seats, and quiet even at highway speeds. Cargo capability was excellent, and personal storage space was average with cupholders and door pockets. My Sport was good-looking as well, inside and out.

Carpeted Floor Mats added \$135, for a total of \$2,985 in options. Destination charges were \$835, with a delivered price of \$29,890.

Life & Style

10 ads that stand out during Super Bowl 52

NEW YORK (AP)—It's Super Bowl ad time again. Advertisers of all stripes are vying for the attention of the 111 million viewers expected to tune in. The goal is to be the most-talked about ad over the water cooler—or Slack chatroom—come Monday morning.

From Steven Tyler de-aging for Kia to Amazon's imagining of different voices for Alexa, here are 10 ads that are likely to be talked about. And if you're not interested in tuning it to watch the big game on Sunday, you can stream all of these ads ahead of time.

Amazon

The internet giant's founder, Jeff Bezos, stars in this 90-second comedic ad showing different celebrities including chef Gordon Ramsay, actress Rebel Wilson, singer Cardi B and actor Anthony Hopkins subbing in for the voice of Amazon's voice assistant Alexa.

Budweiser

Anheuser-Busch dispenses with its usual Clydesdales and puppies and instead goes with a 60-second ad that depicts, to the tune of "Stand By Me," the company's program to provide water to areas in need.

Bud Light

The beer brand's recent ads have centered on a Game of Thrones-like universe that



This photo provided by PepsiCo shows Peter Dinklage in a scene from the company's Doritos Blaze Super Bowl spot.

uses the meaningless-but-catchy phrase "Dilly Dilly." Now, in a 60-second ad running in the second quarter, the brand introduces "Bud Knight," a heroic character who is ambivalent about helping out in a battle.

Coca-Cola

The soda maker strives to include everyone in its 60-second ad: people of different ethnicities, someone in a wheelchair and a person who uses the they/them pronoun are all shot at various locations

in Mexico clutching or drinking different varieties of Coke.

Doritos & Mountain Dew

The two Pepsico brands have linked spots that show a lip-sync battle between Peter Dinklage, who lip syncs a Busta Rhymes song as a representative for Doritos Blaze, and Morgan Freeman, who lip syncs a song by Missy Elliott for Mountain Dew Ice.

Febreze

Procter & Gamble's air fresh-

ener tackles toilet humor with a 30-second ad airing in the second quarter. It purports to be a documentary about Dave, whose "bleep don't stink." The kicker: Since your Super Bowl party guests are a bunch of not-Daves, you might want to take other precautions against bathroom odor.

Kia

The automaker has enlisted Aerosmith lead singer Steven Tyler (who last popped up in a Skittles Super Bowl ad two years ago) to promote its Stinger sports

car. In the ad, he drives backward so fast that he gets younger thanks to computer-generated magic. In a nod to advertising tropes, the ad also contains a subliminal message if you watch it backward; Kia helpfully provides this version online.

Michelob Ultra

The Anheuser-Busch light beer brand has 30-second ads in the second and fourth quarters starring Chris Pratt. In one he runs and does yoga while singing along to "I Like Beer," a remake of a country song from the 1970s.

Pepsi

The soda maker calls back to its past Super Bowl advertising efforts with Britney Spears, Michael Jackson, Celtics basketball player Kyrie Irving and Cindy Crawford in a 30-second ad airing right before the Justin Timberlake halftime show.

WeatherTech

The maker of car floor mats shows footage of its new factory being built in a 30-second ad in the first half of the game. On-screen text reads: "At WeatherTech, we built our new factory right here in America. Isn't that the way it's supposed to be?" It's the fifth consecutive year WeatherTech has advertised during the Super Bowl that all of its operations are in the United States.

Stars from J. Lo to Bradley Cooper spotted at Super Bowl

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Not everyone is watching Super Bowl 52 for the love of football—celebrities are a big part of the day, too. Here's a breakdown of what is happening with entertainers on Sunday in Minnesota.

J. LO ON DATE NIGHT WITH A-ROD

Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez continued to celebrate their one-year anniversary at the Super Bowl.

The two were seen holding hands backstage at the U.S. Bank Stadium ahead of Justin Timberlake's halftime performance. When asked by a reporter what he thought of the game, Rodriguez said he was enjoying it.

Lopez gave a shout-out to her beau at a concert in Minnesota on Saturday night, saying "today is a very special day."

"I don't want to get all mushy but baby this song is for you, she said before performing her new single, "Us."

Other celebrities who attended the game included Bradley Cooper, Gwen Stefani, Blake Shelton, Steph Curry, Diddy, former Vice President Joe Biden, Kevin Hart and Tiffany Haddish.

JANET JACKSON STILL HAS PRESENCE AT SUPER BOWL

Even though Janet Jackson didn't end up

performing with Justin Timberlake for his halftime show, the superstar was on the minds of many during Super Bowl 52.

According to Twitter, from Saturday evening to Sunday evening there were more than 350,000 tweets about Jackson, with 250,000 posts using the hashtag #JanetJacksonAppreciationDay.

Jackson was the Super Bowl halftime performer 14 years ago, with Timberlake as her special guest when he ripped off a portion of her top as the two performed his hit, "Rock Your Body." A huge backlash ensued, and Jackson's career suffered a backslide, while Timberlake's flourished. Some Jackson fans are still angry, and started the hashtag in Jackson's honor.

While there were rumors Jackson might reunite with Timberlake at this year's halftime performance, she shot them down with a statement over the weekend.

LESLIE ODOM JR. WANTED TO HONOR HIS ANCESTORS AT SUPER BOWL

Leslie Odom Jr. said he wanted to pay tribute to his ancestors with his performance of "America the Beautiful" at Super Bowl 52.

"I want to honor the experiences of my ancestors. I want to honor my history, my family's history and my ancestors' history when I stand up for a moment

like that," he said. "I want people to see all of that in a performance."

Odom Jr. earned his roaring applause Sunday. After the performance, in his suite at the U.S. Bank Stadium, he admitted he was "very nervous" before he hit the field, where he was backed by the Angelica Cantanti and ComMUSICation Youth Choirs.

"I wanted to be an example to those kids because I know they were nervous behind me, and I just focused on that," he said.

The Tony-winning performer, best known as Aaron Burr in the monster Broadway hit "Hamilton," was greeted by several people at the stadium, stopping him to say he did a wonderful job.

"I'm trusting everyone telling me that it went well to know that it went well," he said.

"It's cold outside but inside, you feel it, it's warm, it's inviting, it's pleasant," he added.

KELLY CLARKSON SUPPORTS FLU-STRICKEN PINK AHEAD OF PERFORMANCE

Kelly Clarkson says she's not worried about Pink nailing the national anthem at the Super Bowl despite having the flu.

When asked if she would fill in for Pink if needed, Clarkson said, "I don't

think Pink will need anybody to fill in for her. Even Pink with the flu is still hands down one of the best vocalists of our generation."

Clarkson added: "I would take Pink's voice on a flu day any day."

Pink performed sick at a concert Friday in Minnesota and said it's easy to become under the weather when you're a mother of two children. Clarkson echoed her sentiments.

"Our babies are right in our face, like the saliva, the mucus membranes are all around us," she said. "We both have toddlers and I mean, they're literally little petri dishes of disease walking, they just have everything. So we're sick sometimes."

Clarkson was one of the tailgate performances Sunday at Nomadic Live at The Armory. She said she enjoys performing for sports fans.

"The fun thing that you can always expect is it's never going to be a dead crowd because either A, they're drinking already or B, the energy of sports fans in general, they're just excited to be here (and) they're excited for their team," she said.

Though Clarkson is a Dallas Cowboys fan, she said she's rooting for the Philadelphia Eagles over the New England Patriots.

"My nanny is a huge Eagles fan, so

we're all Eagles today. And they're the underdog, right? So, you know, it's kind of cool," she said.

SHEILA E. CALLS MINNEAPOLIS HER SECOND HOME

Sheila E. has a strong connection to Minneapolis because of her ties to Prince, calling the city "my second home."

"It's great to be back. The people have been so gracious here, really cool, and been doing so many wonderful things with us and for us," she said. "The hospitality that they have shown has been amazing. So it's really nice to be back."

Sheila E. was engaged to Prince and they worked on a number of memorable songs, including the funky '80s hit "The Glamorous Life."

Sheila E. was born in Oakland and the Grammy-nominated performer is a San Francisco 49ers fan.

"Now we have a new quarterback, that's good, so maybe next year we will get somewhere," she said, referring to Jimmy Garoppolo, who joined the 49ers last year.

She also said she's a fan of the Minnesota Vikings and the New Orleans Saints. For Sunday's game, she said "if I had to choose between the two, probably Philly."



7 weeks later, 'Jumanji' is no. 1 at box office

NEW YORK (AP)—The heir to "Titanic" is ... "Jumanji: Welcome the Jungle?"

For the first time since James Cameron's 1998 disaster epic, a December release has topped the weekend box office in February. Seven weeks after first opening in theaters, Sony Pictures' "Jumanji" again took the top spot at the North American box office with an estimated \$11 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

On a sluggish Super Bowl weekend, that was good enough to surpass last week's no. 1 film, "Maze Runner: The Death Cure." The third installment in the YA trilogy slid 58 percent in its second week with \$10.2 million in ticket sales. Though "The Death Cure" is behind the pace of the first two "Maze Runner" films, it's made \$142.9 million overseas, including an international-best \$35.2 million this weekend.

1. **"Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle,"** \$11 million (\$12.6 million international).
2. **"Maze Runner: The Death Cure,"** \$10.2 million (\$35.2 million international).
3. **"Winchester,"** \$9.3 million.
4. **"The Greatest Showman,"** \$7.8 million (\$16.2 million international).
5. **"Hostiles,"** \$5.5 million.
6. **"The Post,"** \$5.2 million (\$10.3 million international).
7. **"12 Strong,"** \$4.7 million (\$2.9 million international).
8. **"Den of Thieves,"** \$4.7 million (\$6.5 million international).
9. **"The Shape of Water,"** \$4.3 million (\$4.4 million international).
10. **"Paddington 2,"** \$3.1 million (\$2 million international).

Oscar nominees celebrate storied status at annual luncheon

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Academy Awards contenders are getting together for lunch while they're all still winners.

The film academy is hosting its annual Oscar nominees' luncheon Monday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, where nominated writer-directors Jordan Peele, Greta Gerwig and Guillermo del Toro are among the expected guests. Most of the acting nominees will also be on hand at the private, untelevised gathering.

The Oscar nominees' luncheon is typically a relaxed affair that allows nominees a chance to mingle and congratulate their colleagues. Academy Awards telecast producers traditionally address the group to offer pointers on delivering memorable acceptance speeches.

Nominees will also receive certificates commemorating their academy achievement and pose together for the annual class photo.

The 90th Academy Awards will be presented on March 4.

Kylie Jenner announces birth of 'healthy,' 'beautiful' girl

NEW YORK (AP)—After months of speculation that she was pregnant with her first child, Kylie Jenner has announced the birth of a baby girl.

In an Instagram post Sunday, Jenner says the baby was born Thursday. It's the first child for the 20-year-old reality TV star and 25-year-old rapper Travis Scott.

In her post, Jenner apologizes for keeping fans "in the dark through all the assumptions." She says she chose to keep her pregnancy private and "not to do in front of the world."

Missing brother of actress Kim Cattrall found dead

LACOMBE, Alberta (AP)—"Sex and the City" star Kim Cattrall and Canadian police say her missing brother has been found dead.

The actress had taken to social media earlier appealing for help in finding her brother Christopher Cattrall, who she said was missing from his home in Lacombe, Alberta. She tweeted Sunday afternoon later to say her

family was announcing his "unexpected passing."

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police issued a statement saying the 55-year-old man was found dead on his rural property. It said an investigation continued but "preliminary information indicates that his death is not being considered suspicious."

Cattrall's tweet asked for

privacy for her family, but also expressed thanks to social media users for their "outpouring of love and support in this trying time."

AP
In this May 14, 2017, file photo, actress Kim Cattrall poses for photographers upon arrival to the British Academy Television Awards at the Royal Festival Hall in London.



Netflix will debut new 'Cloverfield' film after Super Bowl

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Netflix has dropped a surprise on Super Bowl viewers—a new "Cloverfield" film will be released after Sunday's game.

The streaming service debuted a trailer for "The Cloverfield Paradox" during Super Bowl 52. It mixed footage from the first film, a surprise hit in 2008, with clips from the new film from director Julius Onah.

"Cloverfield" featured a monster attacking New York through the recordings of a group of friends trying to survive the chaos. Sunday's trail-

er promised viewers would "find out why" the monsters attacked. It shows a group of astronauts encountering problems with an experimental

technology.

The film is produced by J.J. Abrams, who produced the original and a related 2016 film, "10 Cloverfield Lane."

'Coco' sweeps Annie Awards with 11 wins

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pixar's "Coco" swept the 45th Annie Awards, winning 11 trophies at the annual ceremony honoring the year's best in animation.

As expected, the Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

tale was dominant at the An-nies, held Saturday night at UCLA's Royce Hall in Los Angeles. In addition to best animated feature, "Coco" won for its direction (director Lee Unkrich and co-director Adrian Molina), best writing,

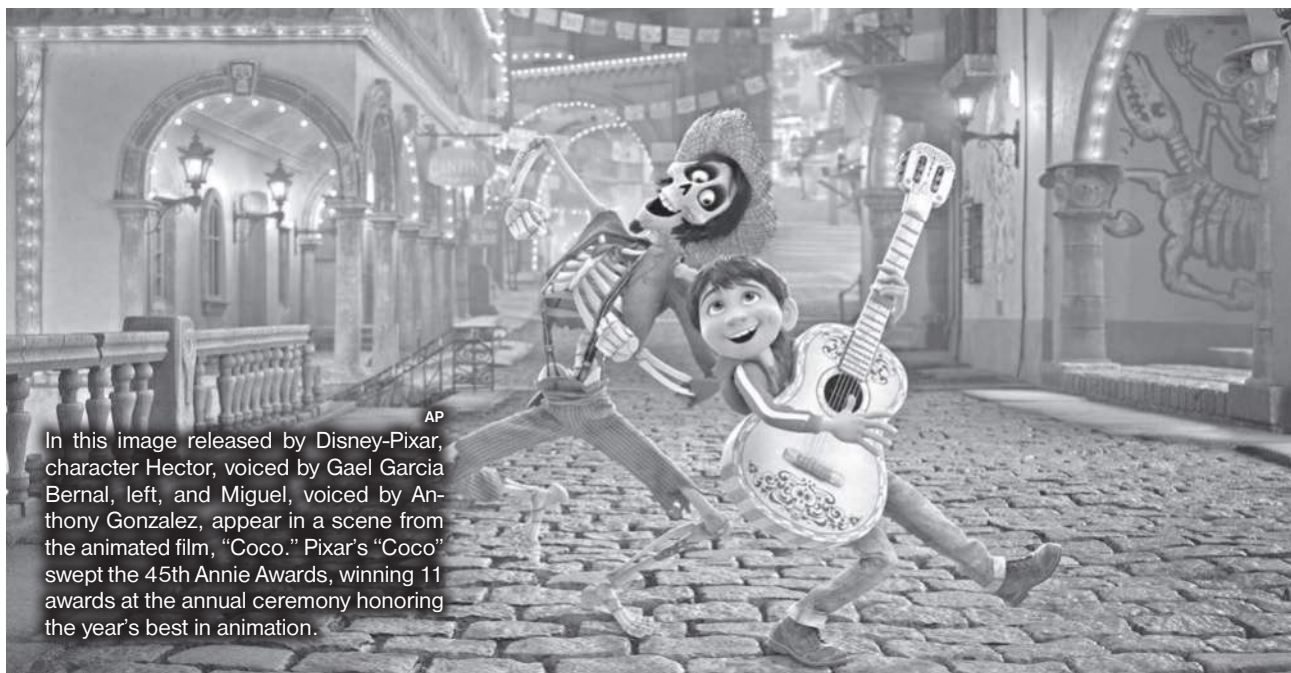
voice acting (Anthony Gonzalez), music, animated effects and character animation.

The strong showing only reinforces "Coco" as the favorite at the Oscars.

"The Breadwinner," directed by Nora Twomey and

executive produced by Angelina Jolie, won for best independent animated feature.

Twomey, whose movie is about an Afghan girl growing up under Taliban rule, is the first solo woman director to win the award.



AP
In this image released by Disney-Pixar, character Hector, voiced by Gael Garcia Bernal, left, and Miguel, voiced by Anthony Gonzalez, appear in a scene from the animated film, "Coco." Pixar's "Coco" swept the 45th Annie Awards, winning 11 awards at the annual ceremony honoring the year's best in animation.

Dad of twins fears wife is suffering from depression

DEAR ABBY: My wife gave birth to our twin girls almost a year ago, and for the most part, things have been great. They are happy and healthy, but I'm not sure how happy my wife is. I'm afraid she may be suffering from postpartum depression, but she won't see anyone about it.

She's always putting the girls first and is stressed out because there's never enough time in the day to do everything. From day one, I have made sure that I'm doing my part. I help cook and clean and change poop diapers. I feel I'm very hands-on, and she agrees. I know twins can be stressful, but I'm pretty relaxed about the process and go with the flow.

I have begged her to talk to someone, but she thinks if she does she will have to take antidepressants and won't be able to breastfeed. It's starting to affect our marriage because she takes out her frustration on me. I get yelled at for stuff that doesn't make sense or hasn't really happened.

Would it be wrong to tell her we are going to lunch and take her to see someone instead—like a mental health intervention? Or should I let her figure this out on her own?

BABY BLUES IN MICHIGAN

DEAR BABY BLUES: To shanghai your wife into a mental health intervention would be a mistake. Be honest

with your wife. Tell her you are deeply concerned, and that her stress level is affecting your marriage. Then tell her you will be making an appointment for her with her OB-GYN and accompanying her. The doctor can tell her what the alternatives are for treatment, if she needs it. Her fears may be groundless, and medication may not be necessary, but it is important that her doctor evaluate her.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my husband for 10 years. Things are great, except for one major issue. Every time we get into a spat, he feels the need to air all of our dirty laundry to his family, which is now my family.

I am a private person. I don't like having other people in the middle of our drama. He tells his relatives his side of the story, and because they don't hear my side, they automatically assume he is some sort of victim. I then start receiving phone calls and text messages from everyone wanting to know what's going on and trying to give me advice. When I politely turn them down, they get angry and start lecturing me about how wrong I am.

This happens often, no matter how small the argument. What do I do? How can I get him to see how much it bothers me? I don't want the world to know what goes on in our home. Nothing I say gets through to him.

BETRAYED AND ALONE

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR BETRAYED: Your husband knows how much what he's doing bothers you. He just doesn't care. He knows that when he runs to his family he will have automatic allies.

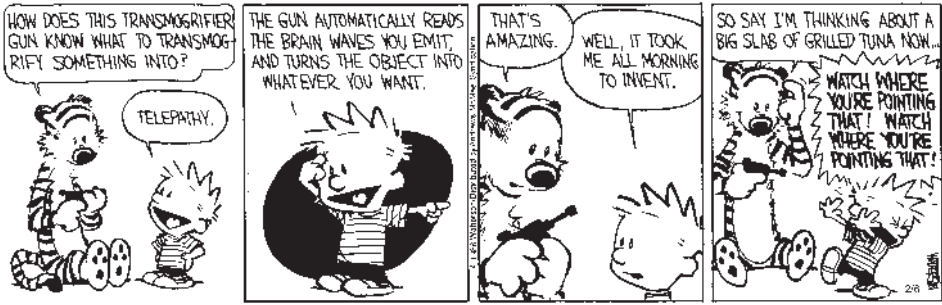
It will take work on both your parts with the help of an unbiased licensed marriage and family therapist for your marriage to improve. If your husband won't go with you—and he may not—you should go without him. Because of his level of immaturity, it's a wonder your marriage has made it this long without intervention.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

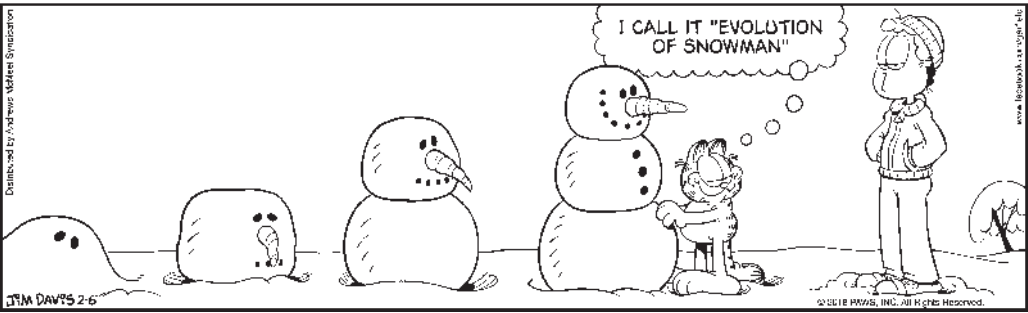
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



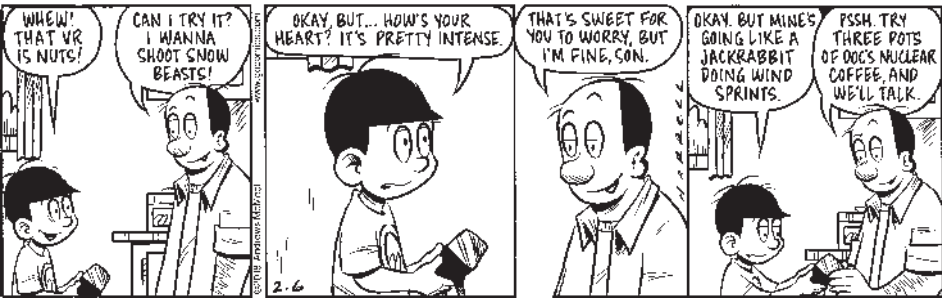
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Entangle-ments

5 Admin. aide

9 Little rascal

12 Off-white

13 Swizzle

14 Formerly called

15 Student housing

17 Moving truck

18 Stumble

19 Portents

21 Titled women

24 Scorch

25 Petri dish gel

26 Bach composi-tions

30 Gaiety

31 Sitar tunes

32 Sugar suffix

33 Baby frogs

35 Sloth's home

36 Fermi's bit

37 Yucatan native

38 Smidgens

40 Twosome

42 Street address?

43 Region

48 Leb. neighbor

49 Send forth

50 Sleeping

51 Sauce source

52 Carpets

53 Tears

DOWN

1 Marry

2 Green prefix

3 "It's c-c-cold!"

4 Historic South Carolina fort

5 Italian wine

6 Halt region

7 —

8 Auditions

9 Stock list

10 Intend

11 Ball-points

16 Apr. ad-dressee

20 Hosp. scan

21 Loony

22 Water, to Juan

23 Required

24 Bikini parts

26 Tropical tree

27 Bio stat

28 On the briny

29 Viewed

31 Farm alarm?

34 School support org.

35 Tooth-paste target

37 Roman 1002

38 Nile bird

39 Roughly

40 Blue-nose

41 — and crafts

44 Flightless bird

45 Kimono sash

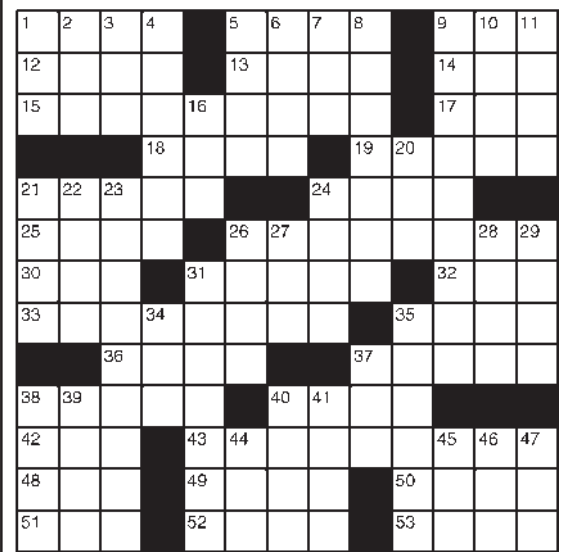
46 Workout unit

47 QB's gains

Solution time: 22 mins.

ALMA SODI PAB
CCNFETTI SODA
GO-SETS REAL
APT CLAMMY
MCMY GLEE
OBIE TOOTLES
NIL FEAST DNA
TOOLATE GAIN
RIMS TEMPO
STRAPS SAN
LION TOOTSIES
ADOG EXHAUSTS
HELE HOO SPAI

Yesterday's answer 2-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rick Astley, 52; Axl Rose, 56; Kathy Najimy, 61; Tom Brokaw, 78.

Happy Birthday: Keep life simple and your goals reasonable. Refuse to let matters that can't be changed waste your time. Stay focused on what's important to you and you'll find the best way to reach the finish line. Curb bad habits and avoid people who entice you with temptation. Do your best to maintain a healthy diet and fitness routine. Your numbers are 6, 14, 23, 28, 36, 40, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't feel like you have to bail out someone who has done something without thinking. Offer suggestions, but walk away from anyone looking for a free ride. Emotional matters will escalate if you aren't firm. Focus on personal gains.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotional matters will escalate if you get involved in projects that are too demanding. Have a clear picture of what's expected of you before you promise to get involved. Don't miss an opportunity because you are engaged in an impossible endeavor.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Refuse to let your emotions stand between you and getting ahead. Don't let one of your peers put demands on you or ask for something that will deter you from taking care of your own responsibilities. Pour your energy into personal gain.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Use your experience, knowledge and intuition to help you come up with the best solution when dealing with matters concerning work,

partnerships and creativity. Don't give in to indulgent suggestions. Emotional spending will leave you cash-poor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Think twice before you let your emotions filter into discussions that can disrupt your home environment or important relationships. Contain your feelings and refuse to let someone goad you into a debate. Don't overspend on luxury items.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Dig in and gather information. Knowing what you are up against is half the battle. Exploring your options will bring you closer to finding a way to improve your relationship with others. Offer factual information, not speculation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Generosity and giving in to those who want you to spend your hard-earned cash to win favors or love should all be nixed quickly. Personal gains will require putting your money, time and energy into self-improvement, not helping others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotions will rise to the surface, making it difficult to contain your feelings. Channel your energy into something unique that will keep you occupied. An unexpected change at home or with a co-worker will leave you questioning your future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be fooled by what others do or say. Emotions will cause people to react differently. Try not to be judgmental. An open mind will help you find out the truth, allowing you to bring about positive change.

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Search for a solution to an ongoing problem. Refuse to give in to something that doesn't suit your needs or that takes you in a direction you would rather avoid. Do what's best for you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't overdo it. You'll be tempted to keep up with someone who has unreasonable expectations. Don't be a follower -- take a leadership position and strive for justice, peace and discipline. Know your limits and stick to your plan.

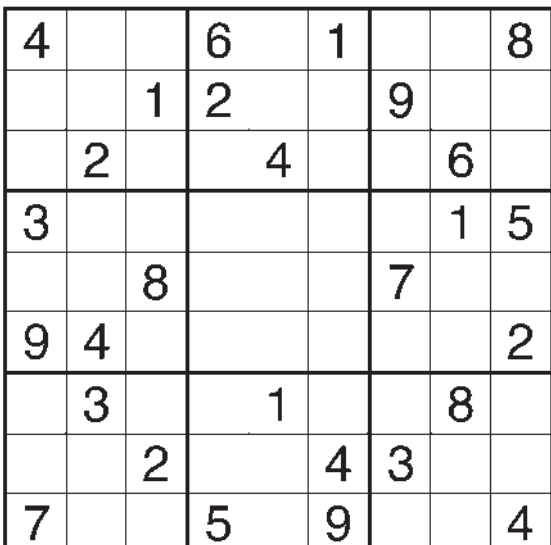
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Go over personal documents that may be due for an update. Coordinate with the people who can help you keep your projects moving at a steady pace. Don't take on too much responsibility. Take care of your health.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, intense and creative. You are unique and innovative.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

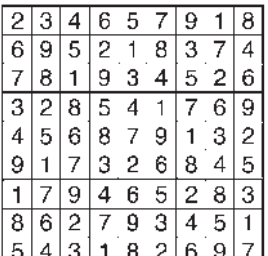
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JACTITATION Solution: 12 letters



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Action, Allegation, Antsy, Assertion, Blink, Boasting, Body, Braggings, Cases, Claim, Complaint, Couple, Court, Disease, Exaggeration, Harm, Jerk, Jolt, Laws, Legs, Limb, Marriage, Medical, Move, Muscles, Nuptials, Petition, Phony, Pledging, Property, Shaking, Shivering, Slander, Status, Throw, Tossing, Tremble, Truth, Twitch

Yesterday's Answer: Statements To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Baseball payrolls could drop for first time



NEW YORK
(AP)—Pro-

jected opening day payrolls for Major League Baseball teams have cratered this offseason, with teams' estimated outlay on players lower than last season despite record revenues of more than \$10 billion. How grim is it? The New York Yankees aren't even among the top-five-spending teams anymore.

As players coalesce in their anger over a free-agent market that has left dozens jobless on the eve of spring training, the lack of spending can be quantified in a bigger-picture way than simply free agency. Teams have committed nearly \$285 million less to player salaries in 2018 than their opening day payrolls in 2017, according to a comparison of Baseball Prospectus' 2018 payroll estimates to last year's figures provided by the Associated Press.

It would mark the first drop in payroll at the beginning of a season since 2009, when salaries dipped 1.3 percent. Since then, they've risen on average 5.5 percent a year, exceeding the \$4 billion mark on opening day last year. Currently, teams have committed around \$3.78 billion—a 7 percent decline from last season. And while the eventual signings of top free agents Yu Darvish, J.D. Martinez, Eric Hosmer and Jake Arrieta will help bring that number closer to the \$4 billion mark, the prospect of wage stagnation is another trend that troubles players as they consider how to voice their displeasure.

They did so in amusingly passive-aggressive fashion Thursday, responding to a reasonable pace-of-play proposal



Major League Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred speaks during a news conference at the baseball owners meetings in the Four Seasons Hotel, Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018, in Los Angeles.

this offseason, furthering the impasse.

The five lowest-projected payrolls thus far are from the Rays (\$79.8 million), San Diego Padres (\$70.3 million), White Sox (\$69.5 million), Phillies (\$63.7 million) and Oakland A's (\$58.2 million). The last team to start opening day with a payroll as low as Oakland's currently is: The 2014 Astros, at \$44.5 million, which was an \$18 million improvement from the previous season.

Those Astros' success tanking only emboldened teams this offseason, and here stands baseball, with players talking openly about a work stoppage, with teams attempting to avoid free-agent foolishness of the past and with the convergence of the two inviting labor discord unseen in nearly a quarter century. Despite their differences with management, the players always have been placated with growth of their salaries remaining somewhat commensurate to that of the teams' revenues.

With franchise values 2½ times what they were five years ago and sport-wide revenues consistently in the 11 figures and profits for teams at their highest levels ever, a decrease in overall salaries would be seen as a clear sign by players that a winter of discontent will turn into a spring of strife in which the already-growing chasm between the sides further widens.

by commissioner Rob Manfred with a text message from union chief Tony Clark to reporters that said, essentially, he'd be happy to talk about pitch clocks and mound visits when major league teams start giving players jobs.

Eleven days before the first pitchers and catchers report to spring training, the panoply of free agents is unlike anything baseball ever has seen, even during the collusion era, and players are struggling to figure out a market that never materialized. The confluence of high-spending teams eager to get under the competitive-balance-tax threshold and more than 10 teams not eager to win created this odd reality, where average is a curse word as teams vie for the extremes.

Projected payrolls tell an enormous part of the story. Currently, 16 teams are spending less than they did last spring. How much less they're spending is the most interesting part. The Detroit Tigers have cut their payroll by \$77.2 million, according to Baseball Prospectus. Next are the Philadelphia Phillies (\$48.2 million), Texas Rangers (\$43.3 million), Baltimore Orioles (\$43.1 million) and Los Angeles Dodgers (\$40.1 million). Behind them, each with more than \$30 million cut, are the Kansas City Royals, New York Yankees, Miami Marlins and Chicago White Sox.

That the Yankees and Dodgers—the two highest-earning teams in the game—have whacked a combined \$73.6

million from their 2017 opening day payrolls exemplifies the movement in the game. Currently, the Yankees' \$161.8 million payroll sits behind the Boston Red Sox (\$204.4 million), San Francisco Giants (\$194.5 million), Dodgers (\$185.4 million), Washington Nationals (\$178.3 million) and Los Angeles Angels (\$166.3 million).

With about \$14 million in player benefits factored into the CBT calculations, the Yankees have somewhere in the neighborhood of \$20 million to spend before exceeding the \$197 million threshold. Their austerity has left an unlikely team in the spot for highest year-over-year payroll jump: the Milwaukee Brewers.

In addition to signing center

fielder Lorenzo Cain to an \$80 million deal—the biggest this offseason by a good margin—the Brewers traded for outfielder Christian Yelich and are projected to pay \$30.2 million more for players this season than last, when they started the year with the lowest payroll in the major leagues.

The world champion Houston Astros have made the second-biggest leap this offseason at (\$29.9 million), followed by the Arizona Diamondbacks (\$27.6 million), Red Sox (\$25.6 million) and Nationals (\$13.8 million). Amid some teams' maneuvering, the Atlanta Braves, Baltimore Orioles, Miami Marlins, Pittsburgh Pirates and Tampa Bay Rays haven't spent a penny on major league free agents

MIAMI (AP)—Heading into the offseason, the Miami Marlins had one of Major League Baseball's strongest offensive cores. The group consisted of outfielders Giancarlo Stanton, Marcell Ozuna and Christian Yelich, along with leadoff man and second baseman Dee Gordon, and fast-rising catcher J.T. Realmuto. Collectively, they were a big reason why many thought the Marlins could be a starting pitcher or two away from competing for a post-season spot in 2018.

As we know now though, that's not going to happen. Once Derek Jeter and his ownership took over in October, the fire sale began, leaving Miami's once promising lineup gutted.

Now, as February begins, only Realmuto remains among those exceptional players. But that won't be true for long if he gets his way.

Fast-rising catcher Realmuto wants out of Marlins

According to Barry Jackson of the Miami Herald, Realmuto's agent, Jeff Berry, is making it clear that Realmuto wants to be next in line to be traded, ideally before spring training begins.

"No matter how his arbitration hearing turned out, J.T.'s preference remains the same," Berry revealed on Friday. "He would like to be traded to another organization before spring training so he has an opportunity to compete for a championship."

The comments were the first real indication of where Realmuto's head has been this winter. They came on the heels of Realmuto losing his arbitration case to Miami, though it's made clear his discontent existed before that outcome. The 26-year-old catcher requested a \$3.5 million salary after hit-

ting a combined .290 with 28 homers and 113 RBIs over the last two seasons. He'll instead receive the \$2.9 million Miami offered.

The money isn't insignificant, but it's the bigger picture that's of more concern to Realmuto. With Stanton, Ozuna, Yelich and Gordon all traded, the Marlins are at square one of what could be an extensive rebuild. For a competitive player entering his prime, that's enough to raise concerns. Beyond that, if the Marlins couldn't make room for the stars they've traded, his days are probably numbered anyway. Why not try to get out now so he can get a full training camp in with a new team.

Realmuto is under Marlins control through 2020. That, in part, makes him more attrac-

tive to Miami, along with his ability to work with a young pitching staff. Those factors could lead to a higher demand in prospects than teams are willing to give Miami. But if Realmuto and his agent make enough noise, perhaps they'll leave Jeter and company with no choice.

Meanwhile, first baseman Justin Bour won his salary arbitration battle against the Marlins.

Bour hit .289 with 25 homers and 83 RBI last year, when he had a \$552,500 salary. Bour was awarded \$3.4 million instead of Miami's \$3 million offer by James Oldham, Steven Wolf and Mark Burstein, who presided over Thursday's hearing.

Boston All-Star outfielder Mookie Betts and Arizona pitcher Shelby Miller won the

first two cases of the year.

Houston closer Ken Giles had a hearing Thursday, and Toronto closer Roberto Osuna and Tampa Bay shortstop Adeiny Hechavarria went before panels Friday. Both pitchers were eligible for arbitration for the first time.

Eighteen players remain scheduled for hearings in the next two weeks. Twenty-five hearings would be the most since 1987.

Osuna requested Wolf, Robert Herzog and James Darby give him a raise from \$552,400 to \$5.8 million instead of the Blue Jays' \$5.3 million offer. The 22-year-old right-hander was 3-4 with a 3.38 ERA and 39 saves last season, raising his three-year total to 95. But he also led the major leagues with 10 blown saves in 2017.

Giles asked Phillip LaPorte, Sylvia Skratek and Strongin for a raise from \$555,100 to \$4.6 million -- \$400,000 more than Houston's offer. He had 34 saves in 38 chances and went 1/3 with a 2.30 ERA last year for Houston. While the Astros won their first World Series, Giles had an 11.74 ERA in the postseason and 27.00 ERA in a pair of World Series appearances, when he allowed five runs in 1 2/3 innings.

Hechavarria submitted a \$5.9 million figure and was offered \$5.35 million by the Rays in a case that will be decided by Gary Kendellen, Oldham and Neumeier. He hit .261 with eight homers and 30 RBI in last year for the Marlins and Rays, who acquired him in late June near the end of a 1+-month stay on the disabled list caused by an oblique strain. He made \$4.35 million.

Horford jumper at buzzer lifts Celtics past Trail Blazers



BOSTON (AP)—Al Horford captured the attention of Boston sports fans even on Super Bowl Sunday.

Horford made a 15-foot fadeaway jumper at the buzzer and the Celtics finished off the Portland Trail Blazers 97-96 Sunday, giving New England fans a few hours to get home before the Patriots played for the NFL championship.

“Wanted to end the game so we could go watch the Super Bowl,” Celtics coach Brad Stevens said.

Stevens spoke while wearing a Patriots hat. He was joined by Eagles fan and Celtics player Marcus Morris, who sported an Eagles jersey.

“I called game when Al hit the turnaround, just so you know,” Morris said.

Stevens smiled, adding: “Al feels a lot like Tom Brady today, right?”

Several jerseys for Brady and fellow Patriots star Rob Gronkowski were in the crowd at TD Garden. An Eagles fan shown on the Jumbotron repeatedly got booed.

Horford wound up with 22 points and 10 rebounds, helping Boston win its fourth in a row.

“He (Stevens) had called a play for Jaylen (Brown) but they were ready for it so he kept yelling keep the ball, keep the ball,” Horford said. “It’s a shot I work on a lot and it felt good when it left my hands.”

Horford hit a game-winning shot with 3.7 seconds left against Houston earlier this season and also hit a buzzer-beater for Atlanta to beat Washington during the 2013-14 season.

Damian Lillard shot just 6 for 19, but scored Portland’s final eight points, including a 3-point play with 7.2 seconds remaining to give the Blazers a 96-95 lead.

C.J. McCollum led the Blazers with 22 points and Lillard added 21.

“They executed well down the stretch, made some tough shots,” McCollum said. “Credit them for battling back and then down the stretch they seemed to match every basket.”

Boston trailed 85-79 with 5:37 to go before going on an 11-0 run, sparked by consecutive 3-pointers from Semi Ojeleye, Jayson Tatum and Horford.

Tatum had 17 points and Brown scored 16 for the Celtics.

“That shot epitomizes the work he puts in,” Brown said. “He embraces those opportunities and steps up to the challenge.”

Terry Rozier had with 11 points on 5-of-18 shooting after recording a triple-double and a career-high 31 points in



Boston Celtics forward Al Horford (42) launches the winning shot during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Portland Trail Blazers, Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018, in Boston.

had eight assists.

Marc Gasol scored 20 points and Andrew Harrison had 16 for the Grizzlies, who have lost six straight road games.

Hawks 99, Knicks 96

In New York, Kent Bazemore’s 3-pointer with 6.7 seconds left lifted Atlanta to the victory.

The Hawks rallied from a 93-87 deficit in the final 2:16.

Bazemore was wide open in the left corner and hit for a 98-96 lead. Tim Hardaway Jr. then stepped on the line trying to inbound, giving the ball back to Atlanta.

After Dewayne Dedmon made one of two foul shots, Hardaway missed a potential tying 3-pointer.

Bazemore led the Hawks with 19 points.

Kristaps Porzingis scored 22 for the Knicks. Enes Kanter finished with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Bucks 109, Nets 94

In New York, Eric Bledsoe scored 28 points, John Henson had 19 points and 18 rebounds, and the Bucks easily extended their winning streak over the Nets to 10 games.

Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo departed after twisting his right ankle with about 7 1/2 minutes left. He finished with 16 points and eight rebounds.

Khris Middleton also had 16 points for the Bucks, who improved to 6-1 since firing Jason Kidd and moved a season-best six games over .500 at 29-23.

DeMarre Carroll and Caris LeVert each scored 15 for the Nets, who lost for the sixth time in seven games.

Hornets 115, Suns 110

In Phoenix, Nicolas Batum scored 22 points and Charlotte rallied from a 21-point deficit in the second half.

Kemba Walker and Dwight Howard added 18 apiece for the Hornets, who staged their biggest comeback of the season and matched their season best with three straight wins.

Rookie Josh Jackson scored a career-high 23 and T.J. Warren added 21 for the Suns, who led 78-57 with 7:53 left in the third quarter. Devin Booker and Dragan Bender added 18 apiece.

Booker, already playing with bruised ribs, left with a left hip pointer with 6:53 to play.

The Hornets outscored the Suns 20-2 to start the fourth quarter.

Struggling Cavaliers don't plan to fire coach Lue

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue has a long list of immediate concerns.

Keeping his job isn’t currently one of them.

Despite Cleveland’s recent slide and his team’s lack of cohesion, the Cavaliers have no immediate plans to replace Lue, a person with direct knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Sunday.

The status of Lue, who led the team to an NBA title in 2016 and three straight Finals appearances, came into question following Saturday night’s 32-point home loss to Houston, the latest blowout suffered by a team in disarray. However, Lue’s job isn’t in danger because of the need for “keeping continuity” at this challenging time, given Cleveland’s roster overhaul and injuries, according to the person who spoke to

The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Sunday because of the sensitive nature of the situation.

ESPN first reported that Lue’s job wasn’t in jeopardy.

Cleveland has lost 12 of 18 and LeBron James and his teammates have been beaten by at least 24 points in four games during the span. They were booed by fans in Quick-Loans Arena almost from the start of the performance against Houston, and following the game, Lue and several of his players challenged the team’s level of effort and trust.

“We didn’t have no fight,” Lue said.

James said: “I’m at a loss for words.”

Isaiah Thomas said the struggled is internal.

“We’re not together on both ends,” he said. “There’s a lot of one-on-one on the offense end, maybe because we don’t

trust each other. And then on the defensive end, it’s the same thing. Guys are put on islands and there’s no trust. I mean, if you don’t trust something, I don’t know.”

A search for answers has yielded no solutions during this prolonged slump, and Cleveland has looked over-matched against the league’s elite teams.

The Cavaliers have lost eight consecutive games on national TV, prompting James to half-heartedly joke the team should be dropped from future network appearances.

Lue, who took over the Cavs midway through the 2016 championship season when David Blatt was fired, has been criticized for an unwillingness to change his lineups. But he’s had to juggle minutes because of injuries and the Cavaliers’ makeup was altered radically when Thomas returned from

a hip injury that knocked him out last year’s playoffs with Boston.

The Cavs haven’t been the same since Thomas came aboard, and the former All-Star has struggled trying to find his rhythm and shot. It has created a trickle-down effect through Cleveland’s lineup, weakened an already feeble defensive team, and raised tensions in the locker room.

And as if Lue didn’t have enough problems, the Cavaliers lost All-Star forward Kevin Love this week with a broken hand. Love could be sidelined two months, and there’s no telling what the team will look like when he returns.

The trading deadline is Thursday, and the Cavs have been engaged with several teams about potential deals. At this point, there may not be anything they can do make them title contenders this year.

Raptors 101, Grizzlies 86

In Toronto, Delon Wright scored 15 points, and Toronto pulled away in the fourth quarter.

DeMar DeRozan and Fred VanVleet each scored 13 points as the Raptors improved to 21-4 at home. Jonas Valanciunas had 12 points, and Kyle Lowry finished with 11.

Toronto is 14-3 when VanVleet scores 10 or more points. He matched his career high with seven rebounds and

his previous two games starting in place of Celtics guard Kyrie Irving.

Lakers 108, Thunder 104

In Oklahoma City, the Thunder appeared to be on their way to their lofty preseason expectations during an eight-game win streak.

Then they hit another rough patch.

Oklahoma City dropped its fourth straight game Sunday

when Brook Lopez scored 20 points and Julius Randle added 19, leading the Los Angeles Lakers to a 108-104 victory.

Thunder guard Russell Westbrook said the team won’t panic.

“Me personally, I love adversity,” he said. “It gives you an opportunity to bring your teammates together and bring everybody together. Looking forward to positive things. Throughout this season there is going to be a lot of ups and

downs, but we never flinch. That’s one thing about this organization and about our team—we never flinch. We are always going to stay together.”

Westbrook scored 36 points and Paul George had 26, but Oklahoma City struggled on defense again. The Thunder have dropped four of five since losing defensive stopper Andre Roberson to a season-ending left patellar tendon injury.

Of particular concern, the Lakers made 13 3-pointers.

FOLES

From Page 28

Brady got his team to mid-field, but his desperation pass fell to the ground in the end zone.

"For us, it was all about one stop we had to make. We went out here and made that one stop," Graham said.

The underdog Eagles (16-3), even injured starting quarterback Carson Wentz, came bolting off the sideline in ecstasy while Brady sat on the ground, disconsolate.

It was the first Super Bowl title for Philadelphia (16-3), which went from 7-9 last season.

"If there's a word (it's) called everything," Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said. "That's what it means to Eagles fans everywhere. And for Eagles fans everywhere, this is for them."

PATRIOTS

From Page 28

Malcolm Butler, whose interception in the end zone sealed New England's Super win over Seattle in the 2015 Super Bowl, didn't play a defensive snap on Sunday.

Bill Belichick said only that they "put the best players in the game plan like we always do." Defensive coordinator Matt Patricia said Butler was in parts of the game plan, but those parts weren't used in the game.

Butler missed a day of practice last week with an illness. He warmed up and was in uniform, but watched the game's biggest moments from the sideline. It was the first Patriots game in which Butler did not play a first quarter snap since their Super Bowl win over Seattle to cap the 2014 season. He started 17 of New England's previous 18 games entering Sunday, including both playoff victories.

He seemed exasperated afterward, telling reporters: "I ain't got nothing to say."

Without him, New England's defense—and particular the secondary—had trouble keeping Foles and Philadelphia's offense in check.

New England allowed 41 points, more than they have given up in any Super Bowl in the Belichick era. It also surrendered 538 total yards, including 373 through the air to MVP Nick Foles. LeGarrette Blount, a former Patriots running back, rushed 14 times for 90 yards and touchdown.

Eric Rowe started in Butler's place. He struggled early, giving up three catches for 66 yards, including Foles' first touchdown pass to Alshon Jeffery.

Butler's teammates seemed confused by the change, which cornerback Stephon Gilmore said they didn't find out until game time.

"Could he have helped us

Super Bowl MVP Foles orchestrated the victory with the kind of drive NFL MVP Brady, a five-time champion, is known for. The drive covered 14 plays, including a fourth-down conversion.

"I felt calm. I mean, we have such a great group of guys, such a great coaching staff," Foles said. "We felt confident coming in, and we just went out there and played football."

The Eagles had to survive a video replay because ball popped into the air as Ertz crossed the goal line.

"If they would have overturned that, I don't know what would have happened to the city of Philadelphia," Ertz said. "But I'm so glad they didn't overturn it."

The touchdown stood—and so did thousands of green-clad Eagles fans who weren't going to mind the frigid conditions outside

out? I don't know. He wasn't out there, so I don't know," Gilmore said. "We just couldn't never get off the field. I mean, we could never make a play to give the ball back out our offense."

The Eagles punted only once in the game and converted on a pair of fourth downs.

The Patriots offense did its part. It didn't punt and had no turnovers through three quarters. After playing from behind most of the night, Brady gave New England its first lead of the game, 33-32 on a 4-yard touchdown pass to Rob Gronkowski with 9:22 to play.

But when the Patriots needed a hero late, no one was able to make a big play.

And on the ensuing drive New England safety Devin McCourty couldn't keep Zach Ertz from stretching the ball across the goal line for an 11-yard touchdown reception from Foles that wound up being the game winner.

The Patriots entered the game with 159-15 record, including a perfect 16-0 in the playoffs, when they had won the turnover battle.

They had the first one of the night, on an interception by safety Duron Harmon in the first half.

But it wasn't enough.

Philadelphia used some trickery, facing fourth-and-goal on the 1 with less than a minute to play in the half.

After a timeout, the Eagles got the ball to Trey Burton on a reverse, who flipped a pass to a wide-open Foles for a touchdown.

New England pulled to within 22-19 after scoring on the opening drive of the second half.

The Patriots defense would break down again, though, this time letting Corey Clement get behind Marquis Flowers and McCourty for an over the shoulder 22-yard catch in the back of the end zone.

US Bank Stadium once they headed out to celebrate. But not before a rousing rendition of "Fly Eagles Fly" reverberated throughout the stands once the trophy was presented to Lurie. Later, fans danced along with the "Gonna Fly Now," the theme from "Rocky," the city's best-known fictional underdog.

The Patriots (15-4) seemed ready to take their sixth championship with Brady and coach Bill Belichick in eight Super Bowls. Brady threw for a postseason record 505 yards and three TDs, hitting Rob Gronkowski for 4 yards before Stephen Gostkowski's extra point gave New England its first lead, 33-32.

Then Foles made Eagles fans forget Wentz—at least for now—with the gutsiest drive of his life.

EAGLES

From Page 28

Club celebrated as Nick Foles and the Boys from Philly pinned down the highly favored New England Patriots to lift the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Super Bowl viewing parties have become a staple on Saipan with Godfather's among the longest bars that have been hosting the annual affair since it opened its doors in April 14 years ago. Godfather's, co-owned by Scott Dotino and Ron Biggers, hosted their regulars—about 80 percent of which were rooting for Tom Brady and the Pats to take home their sixth Lombardi Trophy. But the Eagles spoiled their planned party.

Over at the Chambre Bar, it hosted the "In The Endzone" viewing for about 20 of its loyal customers and some new faces for the fifth straight year. The viewing includes breakfast and lunch plus raffle prizes.

Fiesta Food and Beverage director Das Krishnan said Chambre's small area is enough for them. "It gives a relaxing mood to our regulars since it is not too crowded. We want them to enjoy every minute of the game."

Red Box hosted its last Super Bowl viewing party as management will be turning the facility into something else.

"We reserved two VIP rooms for our sponsors so they can relax while watching the game. We have around 45 to 60, and majority are Patriots fans," said World Resort sales and marketing manager Mike Babauta, a long-time San Francisco 49ers fans, but supported the underdog Eagles this time.

"The 49ers did not make it this time, hopefully next year. I went for the underdogs and I'm shocked especially in the first half, where the Eagles even led by more 10 points," Babauta said.

Larry Singh, who watched the

"We couldn't make a play to give the ball back to the offense," Patriots cornerback Stephon Gilmore said.

Foles has been something of a journeyman in his six pro seasons, but he has been spectacular in four career playoff games. He finished 28 of 43 for 373 yards and three TDs.

The combined 1,151 yards were the most in any modern NFL game. The 40-year-old Brady finished 28 of 48 and picked apart the Eagles until the final two series.

Brady indicated he will return for a 19th season even as Gronkowski was hedging on his future.

"I mean it's 15 minutes after the game ended, so I'd like to process this a little bit," Brady said. "I wouldn't see why I wouldn't be back."

Gronkowski, who has

played eight superb but injury-riddled years, said "I am definitely going to look at my future."

It was such a wild game that Foles caught a touchdown pass, and Brady was on the opposite end of a Danny Amendola throw that went off his fingertips.

Eagles coach Doug Pederson brought home the championship in his second year in charge. Belichick is 5-3 in Super Bowls, most of them decided by less than a touchdown.

So this one was in keeping with that trend: breathtaking and even a bit bizarre.

Brady and the Patriots looked ready for another comeback by opening the second half with a 75-yard touchdown drive. Gronkowski was unstoppable, grabbing four passes for 69 yards, including

the 5-yard score.

Philly didn't flinch, answering with a precise 75-yard march with three more third-down conversions. The Eagles finished 10 for 16 on third. The last was a perfect pass by Foles to Corey Clement over double coverage, and the rookie's reception was upheld by review, putting the Eagles up 10.

Brady shrugged and, getting steadfast protection, connected with Chris Hogan from the 26 for another touchdown.

When all the Eagles could manage was Jake Elliott's 42-yarder for a 32-26 lead, it seemed inevitable the Patriots would go in front, then become the first repeat Super Bowl winner since they did it in the 2004 and '05 games.

Foles, Ertz, and—at last—a revitalized defense said otherwise.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots fans react during the third quarter of the Super Bowl 52 viewing hosted by Amari's Tavern yesterday.



JON PEREZ

Fans of the Philadelphia Eagles and the New England Patriots watch closely the action in Super Bowl 52 at Godfather's Bar in Garapan.

game at Amari's Tavern with his friends, had no doubts the Eagles would upset the Patriots.

"Defense, the Eagles' defense will beat the Patriots," said Singh, who bantered with his friend Terry every time the Eagles made a good play or the Patriots fumbled.

"I don't mind the arguments

or teasing during the game, it's what makes the Super Bowl worth watching," said Terry. "Win or lose, I will stick to my team, the Patriots."

Jack Sablan also believed having family and friends "batting in out" to see whose favorite team will prevail is the best way to enjoy Super Bowl.

"You enjoy a good and loud company, they are all pumped up and excited," said Sablan, who was rooting for the Eagles and watched the match at Charley's Cabaret with his fellow Department of Corrections officers in honor of their late chief and gridiron fanatic Juan M. Ayuyu.

JP Glow Run donates \$8K to MMAC



TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, sixth left, and Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director Juan N. Babauta, fifth left, hold the ceremonial check during the presentation in last Friday's JP Glow Run at the Garapan Fishing Base.

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

TanHoldings president Jerry Tan asked for a marker before turning over the ceremonial check to Commonwealth Cancer Association officials in last Friday's JP Glow Run held at the Garapan Fishing Base.

He needed to change the amount the JP Glow Run,

through the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, will be donating to CCA's Marianas March Against Cancer. Instead of \$3,000, \$8,000 from the total proceeds from the five-kilometer sunset run, which was held in commemoration of the 10th death anniversary of former *Saipan Tribune* publisher John "JP" Pangelinan, was donated to MMAC. Tan increased the

amount since "JP" would have turned 80 years old this year. The TanHoldings president turned over the ceremonial check to CCA executive director Juan L. Babauta and official Nola Hix.

Tan, who was a bit emotional as he recalled JP's contributions to TanHoldings and the community, thanked everyone who supported the JP

Glow Run and congratulated the organizers for holding a successful event.

"I gave my first eulogy during JP's funeral at the [Mt. Carmel] cathedral. I've known JP and his family for 30 years. He's like a brother to me with Hong Kong becoming his second home. He's always broke because he gave his money away to people coming to him for



JON PEREZ

Donna Pangelinan, right, speaks on behalf of her family to thank everyone who supported the fundraising event.

help. He was so generous and welcoming," Tan said.

A total of 1,534 runners, joggers, and walkers joined the event, exceeding last year's turnout (1,100).

Four of JP's six children—Donna, Lisa, Jay, and Christie Sablan—were among the participants in the event held in honor of their father. Donna and Lisa flew in from California to grace last weekend's run. Donna, on behalf of his siblings, thanked everyone from the community who joined the run and showed their support to MMAC and CCA.

Meanwhile, special cash prizes were also given to private and public schools with the most number of participants in the event.

Grace Christian Academy had the most students, teachers, and staff members with 140, while Mt. Carmel School and Agape Christian School had 98 and 90, respectively, to complete the Top 3 in the private school rankings. Marianas High School ruled the public school category with 173 registered participants, followed by the 154 of William S. Reyes Elementary School and Garapan Elemen-

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER

Suplex City and Bruv prevailed in the co-ed U18 division.

sion matches in Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Sunday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

The Kensington Hotel-

Bruv, Suplex City notch second win

Nominees for FISU academy sought

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White is inviting member federations to nominate their respective candidates for the 2018 International University Sports Federation (Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire, FISU) Volunteer Leaders Academy.

The FISU Volunteer Leaders Academy is an international educational program that will be held from June 14 to 22 in Kazan, Russia.

White said that member federations may nominate their candidates and NMSA must receive the nomination on or before Feb. 16.

"Nominations must be received by NMSA by the close of business on Friday, Feb. 16. The board will meet to decide whether or not to nominate a candidate to FISU," White said in an email to all NMSA member federations.

A letter from the federation endorsing the nominee, a copy of the nominee's resume that shows compliance with the selection criteria, particularly with previous

volunteer experience, and a copy of the business page of the nominee's passport must be included in the nomination.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for one of our up-and-coming young people. I look forward to receiving your nominations," added White.

FISU president Oleg Matysin, in the invitation sent to NMSA, said their Ambassadors program would be the main focus of the second edition of the Volunteer Leaders Academy.

"The FISU Ambassadors program is one of the most ambitious and promising FISU special projects. It aims to increase participation and involvement of the general public in FISU activities and events, and promote the values of sports and healthy lifestyle through activities by a group of Ambassadors appointed by FISU."

He added that while FISU Ambassadors are meant to be famous athletes and celebrities, they also plan to select FISU Student Ambassadors among active and talented students in FISU member countries.

FISU Ambassadors will meet with students and share their success stories.

backed Suplex City eased past La Fabrica, 8-3, to improve to a 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record—the same mark that Bruv has following a 6-2 triumph over CTSI Petmalu.

Bruv and CTSI Petmalu closed out the games in the futsal tournament last weekend with the former gaining momentum in the first half to remain undefeated in the six-team field and hand CTSI Petmalu its first loss in the competition.

The Ryan Relucio-coached Bruv jumped to a 4-1 half-time lead, thanks to Guine Borja's pair of goals and one each from J.M. Rojas and Mareko Tekopua. CTSI Petmalu's lone goal in the opening 20 minutes of play came from Joshua De Leon.

CTSI Petmalu (1-1-1) then continued to struggle on offense in the second half with only Sharmaine Francisco hitting the board for the losing squad, while Tekopua added two to complete a hat trick.

In the La Fabrica-Suplex City tiff, the latter caught fire in the second half to beat the former.

Suplex City drilled five goals in the second half turning a closely fought first frame, 3-2, to a 5-point victory. Sebastien Manabat, Rintaro Miyawaki, Jerlyn Castillo, and Katrina Costales lit up the board for Suplex City in the final 20 minutes of the match and the team also got a goal



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bruv's James Ermitanio, right, keeps a close eye on CTSI Petmalu's Josh Abragan during the first half of their co-ed U18 division game in Soccer School's 2018 Youth Futsal Tournament last Sunday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

off La Fabrica's error. Manabat and Miyawaki also had one goal each in the first half and Alex Park added one more for Suplex City's 3-2 halftime advantage.

La Fabrica kept Suplex City within striking distance after the first half, as Jeffrey Seo and Ian Maniago found their target in that period. However, La Fabrica failed to keep up with Suplex City in the second half with only Maniago converting a shot in the closing stage of the match.



In other results, ABCD FC broke into the win column after topping Islanders FC in the curtain-raiser in the division, 7-2.

Dai Podziewski towed ABCD FC (1-1-1) to victory after making three goals. Krizel Tuazon contributed two, while Clayton Izuka and Kirt Andon tallied one each. Podziewski knocked in a pair in first half, while Aldon also registered his goal in that period for ABCD FC's 3-0 lead. The Islanders

(0-0-3), after going scoreless in the first half, drew one goal each from Taka Borja and John Canape, but ABCD FC countered with four to notch its first victory.

Meanwhile, the elimination round games will resume today with one match in each division. In the co-ed U18, Bruv and Suplex City will fight for the solo lead at 7:30pm, while in the co-ed U12 tiff at 6:30pm, it will be CTSI Petmalu against Betde. In the co-ed U15 match at 6:30pm, Fake Madrid takes on Marianas United.

Baseball payrolls
could drop for
first time

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Horford jumper
at buzzer lifts
Celtics past Trail
Blazers
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Foles, Eagles soar

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

MINNEAPOLIS—As their delirious fans sang their theme song and their owner lifted the Lombardi Trophy, the Philadelphia Eagles finally could breathe freely.

Yo, Philly, you really did beat Tom Brady and the New England Patriots in a thrilling Super Bowl that re-wrote the offensive record book.

Nick Foles guided the drive of a lifetime, Zach Ertz made a bobbling touchdown catch that had to survive replay review, and an exhausted defense came up with two stands in the final moments Sunday for a 41-33 victory. For the first time since 1960, the Eagles are NFL champions.

"Fly Eagles Fly," indeed.

"We've played this game

since we were little kids, we dreamed about this moment," game MVP Foles said.

"There's plenty of kids watching this game right now dreaming about this moment and someday will be here."

In a record-setting shootout between backup QB Foles and five-time champ Brady of the favored Patriots, Foles led a pressure-packed 75-yard drive to the winning touchdown, 11 yards to Ertz with 2:21 to go.

Then Brandon Graham

strip-sacked Brady and Derek Barnett recovered, setting up rookie Jake Elliot's 46-yard field goal for an 8-point lead.

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Philadelphia Eagles' Nick Foles holds up the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the NFL Super Bowl 52 football game against the New England Patriots Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018, in Minneapolis. The Eagles won, 41-33.

Eagles fans delighted, Pats supporters dismayed



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Philadelphia Eagles and New England Patriots fans cheer for their respective teams during the first half of the Super Bowl 52 viewing hosted by Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret yesterday.

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REPORTERS

Triumphant cheers and groans in disbelief echoed in the air when fans of the Philadelphia Eagles and the New England Patriots reacted every time

their respective teams make an excellent play or botch their possession.

These were the usual scenes in some of the bars on island as football enthusiasts watched the Eagles and Patriots battled it out in Super Bowl LII at the U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, Minnesota last Sunday

night (Monday on Saipan).

In the end, the Eagles fans that trooped to Chambre Bar of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Godfather's Bar, Saipan World Resort's Red Box, Amari's Tavern, and Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands

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Patriots defense pushed around in Super Bowl loss

BY KYLE HIGHTOWER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

MINNEAPOLIS—So many times this season, New England's defense made

plays when it had to give Tom Brady and the Patriots offense a chance to win.

But with the man responsible for the biggest defensive plays in Patriots' Super Bowl

history watching from the bench, it couldn't figure out the Philadelphia Eagles in a 41-33 loss Super Bowl loss on Sunday.

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